

## **Supportive Environments for Infants, Toddlers, and Twos**

"Childhood is not a race to see how quickly a child can read, write, and count. It is a small window of time to learn and develop at a pace that is right for each individual child. Earlier is not better."

Quote by Magda Gerber, author of "Your Self-Confident Baby: How to Encourage Your Child's Natural Abilities – From the Very Start"

By understanding the primary developmental needs of young children, we can provide them with supportive environments to optimize growth and development and enhance their overall wellbeing.

**Young infants** thrive when they form strong, **secure** bonds with nurturing and responsive adults. They construct meaning from the experiences they have within relationships.

**Mobile infants** are motivated by **discovery**. Their mobility allows them to explore and engage more with people, materials, and the environment.

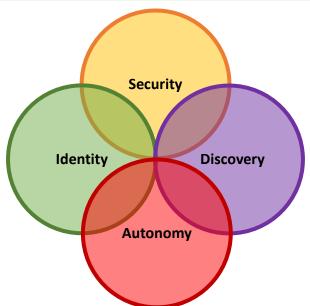
**Toddlers** build meaning through relationships with people and materials. They are motivated by **autonomy** and thrive in environments where trusted caregivers allow them to make choices.

**Twos** have gained tremendous physical skills and are eager to begin figuring out who they are related to their new abilities. They are motivated by **identity** and begin developing strong preferences. They become increasingly aware of differences and similarities between themselves and others.

## Children are curious, capable, and competent at ALL developmental levels!

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## Primary Developmental Needs of Children from Birth to Age 3



PROFESSIONAL RESOURCE

Infants & Toddlers at Play: Choosing the Right Stuff for Learning & Development

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