

Social-Emotional Development for Young Children 42-54 Months Old



- Your child likes to play with other children and has favorite games and playmates.
- Your child is beginning to share. He takes turns but is possessive of favorite toys.
- Your child expresses extreme emotions at times—happiness, sadness, anger, silliness. She may be able to label her own feelings.
- When your child plays, he often uses real-life situations, such as going to the store, school, and gas station.
- Your child may have imaginary friends when playing games, sleeping at night, and going to preschool.
- Your child now understands short and simple rules at home.
- Your child is starting to understand danger. She knows when to stay away from dangerous things.
- Your child loves silly jokes and has a sense of humor.
- Your child is beginning to control his feelings of frustration.
- Your child may use her imagination a lot, and she can be very creative.
- Your child is becoming more independent and adventurous. He may like to try new things.
- With her new independence, your child can be boastful and bossy at times.
- Your child shows concern and sympathy for younger siblings and playmates when they are hurt or upset. His ability to empathize—to put himself in someone else's shoes—is increasing.
- Your child's attention span is increasing. She often stays with an activity for at least 10 minutes.