

Developmental Milestones–What Most Children Do at Age 3 Years

| | <i>Social/Emotional</i> | <i>Language– Communication</i> | <i>Cognitive/Motor– Learning, Thinking, Problem Solving, Doing</i> |
|----------------|---|---|---|
| 3 Years | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Copies adults and friends • Shows affection for friends without prompting • Takes turns in games • Understands the idea of “mine” and “his” or “hers” • Shows wide range of emotions • Separates easily from mom and dad • May get upset with major changes in routine • Dresses and undresses | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follows instructions with 2 or 3 steps • Can name most familiar things • Understands words like “in,” “on,” and “under” • Says first name, age and if they are a boy or girl • Names a friend • Says words like “I,” “me,” “we,” and “you” and some plurals (cars, dogs, cats) • Talks well enough for strangers to understand most of the time • Carries on a conversation using 2 to 3 sentences • Puts 3–4 words together in phrases/sentences | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can work toys with buttons, levers, and moving parts • Plays make-believe with dolls, animals and people • Does puzzles with 3 or 4 pieces • Understands what “two” means • Copies a circle with a pencil or crayon • Turns book pages one at a time • Builds towers of more than 6 blocks • Can cut paper with scissors • Names colors • Points to and counts 3 objects • Catches ball with arms |

This chart was designed to serve as a functional *screening* of developmental skills per age group. It does *not* constitute an assessment nor reflect strictly standardized research.