



AGES and STAGES – TWO-Year-Olds

SPIRITUAL

- Transfer trust/distrust in adults to trust/distrust in God
- Know Jesus is their friend
- Know Jesus loves them
- Worship by listening to worship
- May repeat a few words of prayer

Need Opportunities to:

- Worship and pray
- Sing
- Hear that Jesus loves them
- Act out Bible stories
- See the Bible as God's Word
- Feel part of God's family

INTELLECTUAL

- Know their names and the names of other significant people
- May know colors, numbers, shapes but should not be expected to
- Have an awareness of what they want to do but lack the verbal skills to express it
- Think very literally/concretely

Need opportunities to learn:

- At their own pace
- Through their senses
- Through exploration and experimentation

PHYSICAL

- Have awkward movements
- Learning to control whole body movement
- Energetic
- Always on the go
- Have little dexterity in fingers (may take several tries to place puzzle pieces)

Need:

- Basic physical care
- Safe environment for play

And opportunities for:

- Large muscle movements
- Learning eye-hand coordination
- Developing small muscle control
- Achieving success

SOCIAL

- Parallel play (play next to other children without being directly involved with them)
- Are aware of other children, but with little interaction
- Express social needs by turning to adults present
- Need patience and reassurance from adults

Need opportunities to:

- Play near other children
- Learn to take turns
- Talk to and with others

EMOTIONAL

- Attached to parent or other significant adult(s)
- Need significant adult nearby when working or playing
- Beginning to realize their separateness from important adult(s) in their lives
- Emotions lie close to the surface
- Loving
- Building autonomy (sense of self); need to “do it myself!”
- Can be serious and silly

Need:

- Unconditional love
- Unconditional acceptance
- Stability and sense of security
- Predictable routine

SKILLS

Listening to Stories

- Short attention span
- Will sit in small groups or by themselves to listen
- Need simple focusing activity (fingerplays, songs)
- Enjoy large pictures
- Will get involved in actions
- Like to interact with storyteller

Drama

- Will get involved in story through actions (hiding, looking, walking, marching)
- May imitate leader’s actions
- Are reluctant to play ‘dress-up (until they are close to three)

Singing

- Prefer to listen at first
- Enjoy moving their body through marching, clapping, swaying

Questions

- May not say anything
- May respond to ‘yes’ and ‘no’ questions
- May answer simple factual questions
- May respond by pointing out things in pictures
- May respond to questions with unrelated talk

Directions

- May need physical demonstration of desired actions
- May not respond to verbal directions

ART

Drawing

- Learning to hold utensils and move them
- Enjoy scribbling with crayons and markers
- Will make marks to see what happens
- May not recognize finished art
- Focus on process as most important

Stickers

- Enjoy placing stickers randomly, once they know how
- May take off stickers as fast as they put them on
- Focus on process as most important

Glue

- May be reluctant to get fingers sticky
- May need to be shown how to use glue
- Work best if glue sticks are used or glue is placed in plastic lids and applied with cotton swabs

Scissors

- Will most likely not have small motor coordination to operate scissors
- Enjoy tearing paper, a good pre-scissors activity

Routines

- Are most comfortable with strictly followed routines
- Need warnings when routines will vary

TWO-YEAR-OLD CHECKLIST

Child's Name _____ Date of Birth _____

First Assessment – Date _____ Second Assessment – Date _____

SPIRITUAL

- Is beginning to transfer trust/distrust in adults to trust/distrust in God
- Speaks of Jesus as his/her friend
- Expresses in word or action that Jesus loves him/her
- Listens to others in worship
- Enjoys singing songs about Jesus
- Acts out Bible stories
- Understands the Bible is God's Word
- Views self as part of God's family

INTELLECTUAL DEVELOPMENT

- Knows own name and the names of other significant people
- Has emerging knowledge of colors, numbers and shapes
- Has awareness of what he/she would like to do
- Thinks literally/concretely
- Enjoys learning through his/her senses
- Engages in exploration and experimentation

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

- Is learning to control whole body movement
- Is developing eye-hand coordination
- Is developing small muscle control

EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Demonstrates attachment to parent and/or significant adult(s)
- Demonstrates adjustment to other adults, such as teachers
- Is beginning to realize separateness from important adult(s) in his/her life
- Shows range of emotions such as anger, joy, confusion, sorrow, loneliness, etc.
- Is building autonomy (sense of self); needs to "do it myself"

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

- Engages in parallel play (playing next to other children without direct involvement)
- Is developing awareness of other children
- Turns to adults for social assistance
- Plays near other children
- Is learning to take turns
- Talks to and with others