

What's Special About Me at this Age?



Character Building

- I am learning to respect ownership of property. I am learning not to take or damage what isn't mine. I need you to teach me consequences for stealing and what others will think of me if I do. Teach me to imagine how the other person would feel.
- I am learning about telling the truth. I need you to teach me not to lie. I am learning that others will not trust me if I lie. I also need you to teach me not to gossip or tell untrue stories about others.



Communication

- I understand many words. My vocabulary is growing quickly.
- I am starting to use longer and more complex sentences.
- I like to listen to stories. I like to learn chants and songs. I like finger plays, and action games.



Skill Building

- I want to copy everything you do. I want to use tools and machines that might not be safe. I need you to appreciate my efforts, but make sure I am safe. Give me safe things to play with.
- I can move quickly! I am learning how to be safe, such as staying away from ice. I need a safe play area with boundaries.
- I am learning to observe. Ask me questions. Encourage me to think!

Applying Inuit Values

Respect



Description

If we show respect for all living things, we will be respected. Everything around us deserves respect. Every living thing has a protector who watches over it. Any disrespectful actions will always come back to us in negative ways.

Process

Teach your children to be respectful at this age. If you don't, you might lose control of them later in life. Consider that your children's disrespect will affect the whole family, including parents, grandparents and others.

In the past, Inuit scolded children immediately for any disrespectful behaviour. Such behavior was never ignored or laughed at. The child would be taught to apologize.

Inunnguiniq

Childrearing Advice from Inuit Elders

18 Months to 2 Years



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CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE FOR CHILDREN'S WELL-BEING

Children and Adolescents with Special Needs

About this Age

Two-year olds learn quickly. They observe everything you say and do. They will talk how you talk and react to situations how you do.

Two-year olds are also persistent. If the child has a question or interest, they will not be satisfied until they get an answer.

At this age, children like to be outside and they like to play with real things. Provide them with real activities outside that are safe. For example, they can care for puppies and do small jobs.

Boys and girls are different at this age. Listen to what the child is trying to communicate because each child has different needs and interests.

Boys begin to identify as males at this age. They want to tease and provoke others. They want to practice throwing rocks and chasing things. Teach young boys how to treat dogs and small animals. Give them their own small tools. Show them where to keep them and how to look after them.

Teach girls in similar ways with their dolls and small uluit.

At this age, children should eat whenever they are hungry, but only if it is healthy food. Feed them *quaq*. Encourage them to try all country foods. But, never force them to eat foods they don't like.

What Parents Can Do

- **Be a good role model.** Two-year olds remember and repeat everything! Be mindful of what you say and do. For example, don't gossip around the child or they might develop the same habit.
- **Don't argue or fight in front of the child.**
- **Always watch over them.** Two-year olds get into mischief quickly because they want to try everything. Watch for dangers, such as water. They should never be left alone.
- **Teach them what to avoid,** such as hot things, cold things, and sharp things.
- **Teach at their level.** Use words they understand. Don't give them more information than they are ready for.
- **Limit treats!** Give only a small amount of treats. If the child asks for more, just say, "It's all gone." They will stop looking for it. Also, be sure to give treats equally to children.

Reminders

- ✓ If a child has a stuffy nose, have them run around or exercise. This will make their nose run. Get them to blow into a tissue often. Throw the tissue in the garbage.
- ✓ Allow children to snack when hungry, but only on healthy foods. Don't give children foods that are high in salt or sugar.
- ✓ Children should drink water throughout the day.

Parenting Skills to Practice for this Age

- Play outside with children at this age. Teach them to dress properly for the weather. Teach them the names of animals and birds.
- Tell stories. Read to them. Sing songs together. Encourage children to listen carefully for details.
- Establish a bedtime routine. Teach your child that rest is important for growing strong and being healthy. Sometimes, children do not want to sleep when others are still awake. Lie down with your child. Read or talk softly to them. This will make them feel secure and they will fall asleep.

Tips for Parents

- ✓ Do not give into a child's demands. Gently teach them to accept "no" for an answer and other challenges in life.
- ✓ Do not lie to children. If they find out about a lie, they will become mistrustful. They will also learn to tell lies.
- ✓ Teach young children about safety. Teach them to stay away from dogs. Even good dogs might play too aggressively, so teach children to always be careful with dogs. Teach children to stay away from ice and water. Explain that strange beings, such as *qallupiluk*, might grab them.
- ✓ Always keep young children in close sight.