

Social-Emotional Development at 36 Months



- Your child is more independent and can do many things for herself. Your child will tell you, “I can do it myself!”
- Your child is still learning to follow simple rules, although he sometimes needs gentle reminders.
- Your child now plays briefly *with* other children. She is still learning about sharing and taking turns.
- Your child likely has a special friend that he prefers playing with. Boys may prefer playing with boys, and girls with girls.
- Your child is becoming more independent. When you go on outings, she will not always hold your hand or stay by your side.
- Your child's emotions may shift suddenly, from happy to sad or from mad to silly. He's learning how to handle his emotions.
- Your child can sometimes use words to express her feelings.
- Your child is beginning to think about other people's feelings and is learning to identify their feelings, too.
- Your child uses imagination to create stories through pretend play with dolls, toy telephones, and action figures.
- Your child sometimes bosses people around and makes demands. This shows that he is independent and values himself. He might do something that he is asked to do, but he is more willing if he thinks it is his idea.
- Your child may be fearful and sometimes has nightmares. Scary images and sounds, even cartoons, can give her nightmares.
- Your child's attention span is increasing. She often stays with an activity for at least 5 minutes.