Toddler Age & Stage Chart

What age is a toddler? A toddler is a child 1 to 3 years old.

Stage	Age	Months	What's changing
Baby	**Birth to 12 months**	0 to 12	Growing fast. Many take first steps between 12 and 18 months.
Early toddler	**1 to 2 years**	12 to 24	By 18 months most walk without holding on and try 3 or more words.
Older toddler	**2 to 3 years**	24 to 36	By 2 most run, kick a ball and put two words together.
Preschooler	**3 to 5 years**	36 to 60	By 3 most ask who, what, where and why, and use a fork.
Grade school	**5 to 12 years**	60+	Most children start kindergarten around 5.

Months to years

12 months 1 year	**18 months** 1½ years	**24 months** 2 years	**30 months** 2½ years	**36 months** 3 years

Stage names follow the American Academy of Pediatrics (HealthyChildren.org: Toddler 1 to 3 years, Preschool 3 to 5). The CDC splits toddlers into 1 to 2 and 2 to 3 years. Some experts, like Zero to Three, start toddlerhood closer to 18 months.

Every child grows at their own pace. This chart is general information, not medical advice.

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Toddler Milestone Checkpoints

Things most children (75% or more) do by each age · CDC

Child's name: _____

By 18 months

Date checked: _____

- [ ] Walks without holding on to anyone or anything
- [ ] Follows one-step directions without gestures
- [ ] Scribbles
- [ ] Copies you doing chores, like sweeping
- [ ] Tries to say 3 or more words besides "mama" or "dada"
- [ ] Points to show you something interesting
- [ ] Drinks from a cup without a lid (may spill)
- [ ] Climbs on and off a couch or chair without help

By 2 years

Date checked: _____

- [ ] Kicks a ball
- [ ] Walks (not climbs) up a few stairs, with or without help
- [ ] Says at least two words together, like "More milk"
- [ ] Points to things in a book when asked
- [ ] Runs
- [ ] Eats with a spoon
- [ ] Points to at least two body parts when asked
- [ ] Notices when others are hurt or upset

By 3 years

Date checked: _____

- [ ] Talks with you in a back-and-forth conversation
- [ ] Says first name when asked
- [ ] Draws a circle when shown how
- [ ] Puts on some clothes alone, like loose pants or a jacket
- [ ] Asks "who," "what," "where" or "why" questions
- [ ] Talks well enough for others to understand, most of the time
- [ ] Uses a fork
- [ ] Notices other children and joins them to play

Each item is something 75% of children do by that age, so 1 in 4 have not yet. Bring this page to your child's next checkup. If your child is not meeting milestones, has lost skills, or you are worried, talk with the doctor and ask about developmental screening. CDC's free Milestone Tracker app helps too.

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