

Social-Emotional Development Guide

36
Months

Learn what types of behaviors to expect from your growing child.

Your child:

is more independent and can do many things for herself. Your child will tell you, "I can do it myself!"

is still learning to follow simple rules, although he sometimes needs gentle reminders.

now plays briefly *with* other children. She is still learning about sharing and taking turns.

likely has a special friend that he prefers playing with. Boys may prefer playing with boys, and girls with girls.

is becoming more independent. When you go on outings, she will not always hold your hand or stay by your side.

has emotions that may shift suddenly, from happy to sad or from mad to silly. He's learning how to handle his emotions.

can sometimes use words to express her feelings.

is beginning to think about other people's feelings and learning to identify their feelings, too.

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.

uses imagination to create stories through pretend play with dolls, toy telephones, and action figures.

may be fearful and sometimes has nightmares. Scary images and sounds, even cartoons, can give her nightmares.

has an increasing attention span. She often stays with an activity for at least 5 minutes.

