

Writing tips

1 to 2 years

- Encourage your toddler to feed themselves with a spoon and fork to practise their hand eye coordination, scooping and stabbing.
- Thread large beads or pasta tubes onto strings.
- Put on music and get your toddler to dance, swirling a long piece of ribbon or a scarf.
- Take a bucket of water and large brushes and rollers outside so your toddler can paint on the wall, the ground, everywhere.
- Make sure you have lots of paper for drawing (the back of unused wallpaper is good for big pictures) as toddlers will make marks anywhere.
- Show your toddler how to squeeze and squash by having lots of water and sponges, spray bottles, and squeazy toys that squirt and spray in the bath or outdoors.
- Play with play dough, rolling, squeezing, poking, cutting out shapes and snipping with scissors.
- Read stories with flaps for your toddler to open or buttons to press.



"What I like"

- Pushing, pulling, running and sitting on ride-along toys.
- Crawling through tunnels and climbing.
- Drawing on everything! Scribbling and making marks.
- Copying what you do.

"What I can do"

- Hold thick crayons, chunky chalks and other things to make marks.
- Move and walk on my own.
- Pick up small objects between my finger and thumb.



Did you know?

Your toddler needs to make large movements and develop balance, as these are important for the later skill of pencil control. As your toddler handles objects, they are strengthening their hands and fingers, so that they can grip.

This leaflet is from a series of five, each leaflet covers a different age range from birth to five years old. Children develop at their own rates and in their own ways. The ages are suggestions of typical ranges of development.

If you have any concerns about your child's development, speak to your GP, health visitor or someone at your local Sure Start Children's Centre.

You can find all the leaflets and more advice about child development on the Surrey Family Information Service webpages

www.surreycc.gov.uk/earlylearning



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