

# Smart Start for Toddlers 12-18 months-old

**Getting Ready for School Begins at Birth**



**Tyrone Area School District  
Parenting Tips**

# Smart Start for Toddlers

## 12-14 month-old

YOUR 12-14 MONTH—OLD TODDLER	ACTIVITIES
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Physical</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Begins to walk independently.</li> <li>• Rolls a ball back and forth.</li> <li>• Eats with fingers.</li> <li>• Empties containers of their contents.</li> <li>• Uses a fork or spoon.</li> <li>• Pushes or pulls toys while walking.</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Physical Activities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Roll ball back and forth.</li> <li>• Provide opportunities for your child to use their fork and spoon independently.</li> <li>• Provide push/pull toys like a Walk A Long or shopping cart.</li> </ul>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Language</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Uses at least two words skillfully (e.g. "hi" or "bye")</li> <li>• Combines words and gestures to make needs known. (e.g. Holds out arms and says "up").</li> <li>• Scribbles with crayons.</li> <li>• Enjoys short periods of reading with adults.</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Language Activities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide opportunities for scribbling with a variety of mediums—crayons, paint, markers, etc...</li> <li>• When your toddler says one word repeat what your child says in a full sentence. (e.g. If toddler says "up" you would say "Oh, you want mommy to pick you up!")</li> </ul>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Thinking</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Point to body parts when asked</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Thinking Activities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use body part words when bathing. "I'm washing your toes."</li> <li>• Play body part pointing games. "Where's mommy's feet? Where's your feet?"</li> </ul>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Social</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Imitates others' activities</li> <li>• Enjoys gazing at their reflection</li> <li>• Holds out arms or legs to help you dress them.</li> <li>• Initiates games.</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Social Activities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Play mimicking games.</li> <li>• Play toddler initiated games like Pat A Cake.</li> </ul>

# Smart Start for Toddlers

## 15-18 month-old

YOUR 15-18 MONTH—OLD TODDLER	ACTIVITIES
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Physical</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Begins to walk backward</li> <li>• Runs</li> <li>• Climbs on furniture and other objects.</li> <li>• Stacks blocks.</li> <li>• Takes off one piece of clothing independently.</li> <li>• Likes riding toys.</li> <li>• Dances to music.</li> <li>• Kicks ball forward.</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Physical Activities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Take your child to a community park to run and climb.</li> <li>• Be patient as your child begins undressing themselves and not wanting your help.</li> <li>• Provide small riding toys.</li> <li>• Listen and dance to music together.</li> <li>• Kick balls to each other.</li> </ul>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Language</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Puts fingers to mouth and says "shh".</li> <li>• Adopts "no" as their favorite word.</li> <li>• Turns pages of a book.</li> <li>• Uses at least 6 words on a regular basis.</li> <li>• Speech more clearly.</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Language Activities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explore books together letting your toddler hold and explore the book.</li> <li>• Talk to your child all the time. Sing, whisper, make sounds.</li> </ul>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Thinking</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Begins to understand how to use common objects (e.g. telephone)</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Thinking Activities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide pretend common objects such as brooms and telephones for your child's exploration.</li> </ul>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Social</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "Helps" around the house.</li> <li>• Has temper tantrums when frustrated.</li> <li>• Becomes attached to a soft toy or object.</li> <li>• Enjoys pretend games.</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Social Activities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage your child's "help" around the house.</li> <li>• Allow your child to take their favorite toy with them shopping, to friends' houses, or childcare.</li> </ul>