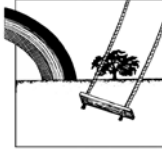


Valley Oak Children's Services



Early Childhood Education Services AGES AND STAGES

ONE TO TWO YEARS: This child...

- Can creep, climb and run.
- Needs limits and also outlets for his boundless energy.
- Can speak and respond to a few words and phrases and asks for things by vocalizing and pointing.
- May give up a bottle and hold a cup.
- May begin to feed himself and awkwardly extend an arm or leg for dressing.
- Treats other children and adults as objects and has no concept of sharing.
- Has shifting moods and a short temper.
- May experiment with genital play as pleasurable interest in the body is normal.

Removing a child physically from potential incidents and distraction are the best discipline techniques at this age.

TWO TO THREE YEARS: This child...

- Is rapidly losing proportions of babyhood.
- Speaks in two and three word sentences.
- Will emphatically express himself with "no" on most occasions.
- Responds best to routine.
- May be easily toilet-trained.
- Is capable of feeding himself with some spilling.
- Has a short attention span and needs to move from one activity to another.
- Plays alone or along side of other children (parallel play).
- Treats other children as objects.
- Is very possessive which may cause many disputes.
- Likes to scribble, making lines, dots and circles.
- Enjoys music and is able to learn simple songs.
- Is beginning to show interest in the differences between sexes.
- Likes bathroom activities and girls may try to urinate standing.

Humor and distraction are the best approaches to discipline at this age.

THREE YEAR OLD: This child...

- Is developing good motor control.
- Is losing the baby body as arms and legs lengthen.

- Can undress himself yet continues to need help getting dressed.
- Can manage himself well in most routines, becoming less rigid and ritualistic.
- Is beginning group play with one or two children and continues to enjoy playing alone.
- Is beginning to share.
- Is curious and highly imaginative.

Humor and distraction continue to be the best approaches to discipline at this age.

FOUR YEAR OLD: This child...

- Is generally very active and assertive with much "out of bounds" behavior.
- Has good motor control.
- Likes to ramble on and on using four and five word sentences.
- Is very sociable and likes to use exaggeration.
- If often bossy and boastful, indulging in name calling, tattling and arguing frequently.
- Can cooperate with other children in play activities and likes to share experiences.
- Is developing friendships with children of the same sex and becoming attached to the opposite sex parent.
- Wants to learn about his body and may ask where he came from.
- Is interested in life beyond home and school and demonstrates this in his play.
- Is developing rhythm and enjoys music and singing.
- Can build elaborate block structures and likes to talk about them.
- Has a longer attention span.
- Is imaginative, dramatic and versatile, constantly asking why and how.
- Is interested in games of "doctor" with other children of the same sex, with same sex play common at this time.

Humor and distraction are still the best discipline tools at this time.

FIVE YEAR OLD: This child...

- Has mastered large muscle control but still has difficulty with small muscle control, such as printing.

- Is aware of the differences between his right and left hand.
- Can learn socially acceptable behaviors and behave in appropriate ways.
- Plays well in groups and is generally cooperative with adults and children.
- Likes to listen to stories and learns by imitating.
- Has many questions and expect truthful answers.
- Can assume responsibilities with simple household chores and is becoming more self-sufficient.
- Enjoys art work and art work at this age becomes representative (a figure becomes the child, Mom, Dad, etc.)
- Defines words in terms of use, is more sympathetic and aware of causes of distress.
- May use swear words with much amusement.
- May subject younger uninterested children in sex play.

Some reasoning may be effective with preschoolers at this age as a discipline technique. Humor and distraction are still important tools to use.

SIX YEAR OLD: This child...

- Is usually in first grade and constantly active whether sitting or standing.
- May still have difficulty coordinating eye and hand movements.
- Is beginning to distinguish between fact and fantasy.
- May be noisy, boisterous and inconsistent.
- Is easily excited and violently emotional (may love one moment and hate the next).
- May be demanding of others and negative in response, expecting others to conform to his way of thinking and doing.
- May have difficulty cooperating in organized games because he is self-centered and demanding.
- Seeks approval and does not accept criticism, blame or punishment very well.
- Has a difficult time making choices and decisions.
- Usually has a lessened interest in sex play.

Encouragement of acceptable behavior works well as a discipline tool at this age.

SEVEN YEAR OLD: This child...

- It at an age of frustration.
- Expects too much of herself and wants to do everything perfectly.
- May be withdrawn.
- Tends to feel that parents, teachers, and peers are unfair.
- Feels a need for a place in the family and tends to be jealous of siblings.
- May complain often and cry easily.

- Likes to be alone and may have a “nobody likes me” attitude.
- Reading, watching and observing take up a great deal of time.
- Is busy touching, feeling and explaining.

This child responds best to encouragement and indirect correction since he tends to worry.

EIGHT YEAR OLD: This child...

- Might begin to be careless.
- Often works and plays to the point of exhaustion.
- Wants to meet the community.
- Prefers to work and play in groups; this is the gang/club stage.
- Is interested in relationships with others.
- Is interested in the family group but has difficulty getting along with siblings as she is very sensitive.
- Tries to express ideas and take part in activities that are beyond her capacity.
- Expresses many angry feelings and is easily frustrated.
- Is beginning to develop some understanding of space and time.
- May renew her interest in sex between eight and ten years with jokes, swearing, sharing information and books.

Clarity of expectations and continued encouragement are the best discipline tools at this age.

NINE, TEN and ELEVEN YEAR OLDS: These children...

- Are in a period of transition.
- Are developing their own attitudes independent of adults.
- May be inconsistent and disorganized.
- May be restless, sensitive and moody.
- Are developing sexually.
- May demonstrate regressive behaviors.
- Need friends continually and a “best friend” is important.
- Are influenced strongly by peers and gangs.
- Are motivated by group competition and teamwork.
- Enjoy group projects.
- Are influenced by heroes and will worship them.
- Have longer attention spans and increased memory detail.
- See details more clearly than main ideas.
- Are interested in the concrete rather than the abstract.
- Experience an increased mastery of “tools skills,” especially reading.
- Are collectors and excellent model builders.

Clear limits are critical at this time. Expectations and consequences need to be explained and consistent.