



FIG 11-2 Transitional objects, such as a warm and fuzzy stuffed animal, are sources of security to a toddler. (©2011 [Photos.com](#), a division of Getty Images. All rights reserved.)

Learning to tolerate and master brief periods of separation are important developmental tasks for children in this age group. In addition, it is a necessary component of parenting because brief periods of separation allow parents to restore their energy and patience and to minimize directing their irritations and frustrations at the children.

Language Development

The most striking characteristic of language development during early childhood is the increasing level of comprehension. Although the number of words acquired—from about 4 at 1 year old to approximately 300 at 2 years old—is notable, the ability to understand speech is much greater than the number of words the child can say. Bilingual children can also achieve their early linguistic milestones in each of the languages at the same time and