



# Bright Futures Parent Handout

## 2 Year Visit

Here are some suggestions from Bright Futures experts that may be of value to your family.

ASSESSMENT OF LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT

### Your Talking Child

- Talk about and describe pictures in books and the things you see and hear together.
- Parent-child play, where the child leads, is the best way to help toddlers learn to talk.
- Read to your child every day.
- Your child may love hearing the same story over and over.
- Ask your child to point to things as you read.
- Stop a story to let your child make an animal sound or finish a part of the story.
- Use correct language; be a good model for your child.
- Talk slowly and remember that it may take a while for your child to respond.

SAFETY

- Everyone should wear a seat belt in the car. Do not start the vehicle until everyone is buckled up.
- Never leave your child alone in your home or yard, especially near cars, without a mature adult in charge.
- When backing out of the garage or driving in the driveway, have another adult hold your child a safe distance away so he is not run over.
- Keep your child away from moving machines, lawn mowers, streets, moving garage doors, and driveways.
- Have your child wear a good-fitting helmet on bikes and trikes.
- Never have a gun in the home. If you must have a gun, store it unloaded and locked with the ammunition locked separately from the gun.

### Toilet Training

- Signs of being ready for toilet training
  - Dry for 2 hours
  - Knows if she is wet or dry
  - Can pull pants down and up
  - Wants to learn
  - Can tell you if she is going to have a bowel movement
- Plan for toilet breaks often. Children use the toilet as many as 10 times each day.
- Help your child wash her hands after toileting and diaper changes and before meals.
- Clean potty chairs after every use.
- Teach your child to cough or sneeze into her shoulder. Use a tissue to wipe her nose.
- Take the child to choose underwear when she feels ready to do so.

TOILET TRAINING

TELEVISION VIEWING

### Your Child and TV

- It is better for toddlers to play than watch TV.
- Limit TV to 1–2 hours or less each day.
- Watch TV together and discuss what you see and think.
- Be careful about the programs and advertising your young child sees.
- Do other activities with your child such as reading, playing games, and singing.
- Be active together as a family. Make sure your child is active at home, at child care, and with sitters.

SAFETY

### Safety

- Be sure your child's car safety seat is correctly installed in the back seat of all vehicles.
- All children 2 years or older, or those younger than 2 years who have outgrown the rear-facing weight or height limit for their car safety seat, should use a forward-facing car safety seat with a harness for as long as possible, up to the highest weight or height allowed by their car safety seat's manufacturer.

### How Your Child Behaves

- Praise your child for behaving well.
- It is normal for your child to protest being away from you or meeting new people.
- Listen to your child and treat him with respect. Expect others to do as well.
- Play with your child each day, joining in things the child likes to do.
- Hug and hold your child often.
- Give your child choices between 2 good things in snacks, books, or toys.
- Help your child express his feelings and name them.
- Help your child play with other children, but do not expect sharing.
- Never make fun of the child's fears or allow others to scare your child.
- Watch how your child responds to new people or situations.

TEMPERAMENT AND BEHAVIOR

## What to Expect at Your Child's 2½ Year Visit

### We will talk about

- Your talking child
- Getting ready for preschool
- Family activities
- Home and car safety
- Getting along with other children

Poison Help: 1-800-222-1222

Child safety seat inspection:  
1-866-SEATCHECK; [seatcheck.org](http://seatcheck.org)



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