
Quality Child Care for Infants and Toddlers means:

- A loving, responsive, experienced caregiver who understands infants and toddlers and allows positive growth to happen.
- A caregiver who stimulates each child by talking or singing, and comforting them with a soothing voice.
- A caregiver who holds each child frequently, and attends to their needs in a timely manner.
- A caregiver who follows a daily schedule of routines which includes regular times for feeding, diapering and napping. Limits are set and consistently carried out for each activity and routine.
- Play spaces, simple activities, and toys, allow infants to explore and learn safely. There are clean floors and carpeted areas, safe equipment sized for this age, clean brightly-colored toys, mirrors low on walls, cushions and spaces for reaching and crawling.
- Daily chats or other shared information keep you informed about your child's activities and growth.



Think About What Your Infant Needs at this Age

Infants thrive with a consistent caregiver. They become familiar with the person's voice and mannerisms, and the caregiver learns to recognize the infant's cues.

Infants also:

- Enjoy and learn from repetitive games such as “peek-a-boo.”
- Rely on cooing, crying, grasping and reaching as their way of communicating.
- Watch adult facial expressions and listen to sounds or words that model language for them.
- Physically develop rapidly. Movement can be enhanced by supportive pillows to prop them up and providing opportunities for them to crawl in a safe place.
- Explore with their mouths and need safe, clean items such as blocks, books and simple toys.

Think About What Your Toddler Needs at this Age

Toddlers' biggest challenges are learning how to be safe, getting what they need, and expressing themselves.

Toddlers also:

- Actively move around and begin to walk, exploring their environment with their new mobility.
- Need to be independent, for example, by selecting their own toy or choosing a snack.
- Gain new vocabulary on a daily basis. They listen to others and like to repeat what they hear.
- Struggle with new independence and may want to act like a baby again.
- Are just beginning to learn the concept of “sharing”.

Vermont Association of Child Care
Resource and Referral Agencies

Call toll-free:

1-877-VACCRRA

(1-877-822-2772)

or your local agency.

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