

## Social-Emotional Development at 60 Months



- Your child likes to play best with one or two other children at a time.
- Your child likes to choose his own friends and may have a best friend.
- Your child now plays simple games such as Candy Land and Go Fish.
- Your child may play with small groups of children at the park or at school.
- Your child understands and can follow simple rules at home and at school.
- Your child shows a variety of emotions. She may be jealous of other children at times, especially of a younger brother or sister who is getting attention.
- Your child is now very independent and likes to make his own choices about clothes to wear, foods to eat, and activities in which to be involved.
- Your child is sensitive to other children's feelings. She can identify other people's feelings: "She's sad."
- Your child likes to talk with familiar adults and children.
- Your child understands how to take turns and share at home and at school, but he may not want to all of the time.
- Your child is beginning to understand the meaning of right and wrong. She does not always do what is right, though.
- Adult approval is very important to your child. Your child looks to adults for attention and praise.
- Your child is showing some self-control in group situations and can wait for his turn or stand in a line.
- Your child is usually able to respond to requests such as "Use your quiet voice" or "Inside is for walking."
- Your child's attention span is increasing. She is able to focus her attention for a necessary length of time, such as listening to directions or a story.

## Social-Emotional Activities for Young Children 60 Months Old



<p>Tell simple jokes and riddles. Your child will love it when you laugh at her jokes—the sillier, the better.</p>	<p>Gather old shirts, hats, and other clothes from friends or a thrift store. Encourage dramatic play—acting out stories, songs, and scenes from the neighborhood.</p>	<p>Encourage your child to make choices as often as possible. Ask, “Do you want to go to the park or play at home?” He will like having some control over what he does.</p>	<p>Most of the time, your child will feel good about doing small jobs around the house. Give her a lot of praise when she does a good job, and tell her what a big help she is.</p>
<p>Your child may need some help when he argues or disagrees with a friend or sibling. Remind him to express his feelings with words and that he can come to you for help.</p>	<p>Make sure your child has plenty of rest and quiet and alone time when she needs it.</p>	<p>When your child has friends over, encourage them to play games that require working together. Try building a tent out of old blankets, playing catch, or acting out stories.</p>	<p>Tell your child a favorite nursery rhyme that involves the idea of “right” and “wrong.” Discuss what kinds of choices the characters made in the story.</p>
<p>Let your child know how special he is. Give him a lot of love, praise, and hugs every day.</p>	<p>Show your child pictures in magazines of people from different cultures. Talk about things that are the same or different between your family and other families.</p>	<p>Ask your child her birthday, telephone number, and first and last name. Practice what she would do if she was separated from you at the store.</p>	<p>Play games with your child such as Go Fish, Checkers, or Candy Land. Board games or card games that have three or more rules are great.</p>
<p>Have a special time for reading each day. Talk about what happens in the story. Ask your child questions. Listen to his answers. He has a lot to share.</p>	<p>Talk about real dangers (fire, guns, cars) and make-believe dangers (monsters under the bed) using hand-drawn pictures or pictures cut out from a magazine.</p>	<p>Build a store, house, puppet stage, or fire truck out of old boxes. Your child can invite a friend over to play store or house, have a puppet show, or be firefighters.</p>	<p>Encourage your child to talk about the different rules at home and at school. Talk about why there are rules.</p>