



# When I am ... 3

This card offers suggestions on how you can help your three-year-old continue to develop in five key areas and have a lot of fun while learning at Imagine It! The Children's Museum of Atlanta!

Developmental Area	Skill	Activity in the Museum
<b>Physical Development: Gross Motor Skills</b>	Although I am pretty fast, I still need to work on developing my gross motor skills and confidence.	Climbing to the top of the tree house and back down again in <i>Leaping into Learning</i> helps develop gross motor skills and self-confidence.
<b>Physical Development: Fine Motor Skills</b>	I am working on controlling my small movements – learning how to draw and pick up small things.	Have fun painting with your child on the paint wall in <i>Let Your Creativity Flow</i> . Draw a circle and see if he or she can copy it or maybe a letter of the alphabet — like the first letter of his or her name.
<b>Language and Literacy</b>	I am increasing my skill with language — both verbal and non-verbal.	In <i>Tools for Solutions</i> , ask your child to do an animal treasure hunt in the underground tunnel. See if he or she can find the worms, the snake or the mole. Have your child describe what the animals are doing. Are they sleeping, eating, or playing?
<b>Social Learning</b>	I continue to improve my social skills with adults and other children.	Try out different jobs with your child in the grocery store in <i>Fundamentally Food</i> . Be the cashier or a shopper.
<b>Learning &amp; Problem Solving</b>	I am starting to be able to count and I am beginning to create patterns.	Use the blocks in <i>Tools for Solutions</i> to create a stack that has a repeating pattern like blue, red, green.

Each child is unique and develops at his or her own pace. Three-year-olds are still growing, but not as fast as they used to. They're great runners and are really fast, and they may even be able to jump up and down on one foot without falling. Three-year-olds are starting to use their fine motor controls — brushing teeth, drawing with crayons, and building towers of blocks. There is a lot of talking going on, but most of it is still focused on making pronouncements rather than conversation. Like two-year-olds, three-year-olds love repetition and will listen to the same story over and over. They have great imagination skills and like playing dress up and role-playing. These roles help him or her to try out different behaviors and are the beginning of learning empathy with others. They are also trying to “sort” people into categories, like “boy” and “girl” and finding out what that means.

## Additional Resources

### Books:

**What to Expect: The Toddler Years** by Arlene Eisenberg, Heidi Murkoff, Sandee Hathaway, Sharon Mazel

**Caring for your Baby and Young Child** published by the American Academy of Pediatrics, Steven P. Shevlov, M. D. editor in chief

**Building Healthy Minds: The Six Experiences that Create Intelligence and Emotional Growth in Babies and Young Children** by Stanley Greenspan, M.D.

**Fathering Your School-Age Child: A Dad's Guide to the Wonder Years: 3 to 9** by Armin A. Brott

### Online Resources:

Georgia Department of Early Care & Learning: Bright from the Start has a web site with the early learning standards for infants up to three-year-olds. [www.decal.ga.gov](http://www.decal.ga.gov)

United Way has a site called “Born Learning” which gives developmental information, fun activities to do with children of all ages, and other great resources. [www.bornlearning.org](http://www.bornlearning.org)

PBS Kids has created a website on child development for children ages 1-8. [www.pbs.org/parents/childdevelopment](http://www.pbs.org/parents/childdevelopment)

Parents as Teachers has a website with parenting tips. [www.parentsasteachers.org](http://www.parentsasteachers.org)

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