

Stages of toddler development

The nine month old:

Starting to explore.

The outside world attracts and captivates.

Objects are grasped with the eyes and the mind.

If taken away there is still attachment and crying ensues.

Crying at this age is fleeting and innocent.

The fifteen month old:

Play is random. Child flits from one toy to another.

Attachment to objects increases and tantrums can worsen.

These are fleeting and innocent.

Ideas have become more powerful.

If something can't be done, crying results.

Eighteen months to 2 years:

Temper tantrums can be more powerful as thoughts have more force.

Transitions become more difficult for many toddlers.

An important transition to note!!!

Somewhere between eighteen months and two years of age a change occurs.

Temper tantrums lose a degree of innocence.

Anger becomes directed at the person who causes the upset.

This is when a "time out" technique becomes useful.

It lets the child stew alone with an invitation to return to a happy play.

A second transition to note!!!

By the age of three, earlier for some children, temper tantrums are not innocent.

They are manipulative.

The child uses them to get what he/she wants.

If unrecognized as such, the child can easily become bossy and a bully.