

---

# 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 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".

---

Call toll-free:

**1-877-VACCRRRA**

(1-877-822-2772)

or your local agency.

---

