



### **Basic Characteristics of Toddlers**

The work of toddlers (18-36 months) is developing *Autonomy*.

- Are “into everything”
- Discover two-legged locomotion
- Are giddy with their new movement ability, and the independence it brings
- Are learning to do things for themselves
- Play not just to see how things feel, but to figure out what can be done with them
- Work at becoming independent
- Are stubborn about ME, MINE and MY
- Are in love with the word NO (because that is the way they practice making decisions all by themselves)
- Become easily frustrated
- Love to build up, knock down, put in, and take out
- Begin to pretend play
- Imitate what they see
- Get easily excited
- Are learning to use language to express feelings and ideas
- Have a short attention span
- Are very active