

Advanced Pediatrics of Rockland, P.C.

358 Route 202, Suite 2, Pomona, NY 10970

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Anticipatory Guidance

2 year old - Male

You can start to transition your child to a toddler bed at this age.

You should be giving him prescription multivitamins with fluoride.

Brush his teeth twice a day with fluoride-free toothpaste since ingesting too much fluoride can cause tooth staining.

Use fragrance free, mineral sunblock for sun exposure.

Continue childproofing the house: Ensure pills and poisons are not accessible. This includes all household cleaners which should be stored in a cabinet with childproof locks on it. Clean up small pieces and coins that she can choke on or ingest. Get rid of (or pad) coffee tables or other hard/pointy objects. Pad all corners and edges of furniture to help prevent head injuries and lacerations. Secure all TV's and dressers so that they cannot fall on your child.

Do not give choking hazards such as nuts, raisins and grapes. He should continue to drink mostly water. Try not to give juice or milk since they contain empty sugar and calories without adding much nutrition. If your child is drinking milk, he should be drinking fat free (skim) milk and limit it to one cup per day. Good Karma unsweetened flax milk is a very low-calorie alternative and contains vitamin D, calcium and omega 3 fatty acids for brain development. Adding flax seed oil to food will also add omega 3 free fatty acids. Food choices should include vegetables for vitamins and minerals. It should also include protein containing foods such as meat, fish, chicken, egg whites and beans.

Continue to use "time out" and ignore temper tantrums. Remember that "time out" should be used right after your child demonstrates behavior that needs to be corrected. You should also limit its use which will increase its effectiveness. Ignoring bad behavior is still the most important part of discipline. Most kids will not sit in a "time out" chair. Simply sit him on your lap, cross your arms and hold his wrists. Set the timer on your phone for two minutes. Tell him that he is getting a "time out" and when the timer goes off, let her up. Start the "time out" as soon as he is on your lap and don't wait for him to calm down. After the "time out" is over, try to engage him when he is playing nicely in order to increase positive reinforcement.

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Your child should be going to bed tired but awake - This allows him to learn to self-soothe which is a very important tool for social-emotional development. He should be using a straw cup or open cup now. We strongly recommend discontinuing all bottles and sippy cups at this age if he is still using them.

Most boys will start to potty-train at two and half to three years old. If he is showing interest early, you can start to potty-train. You should use positive reinforcement only and try not to force him to use the potty. Putting too much pressure on potty-training can lead to functional withholding and significant constipation.