



# APPROACHES TO LEARNING

## 18 TO 36 MONTHS

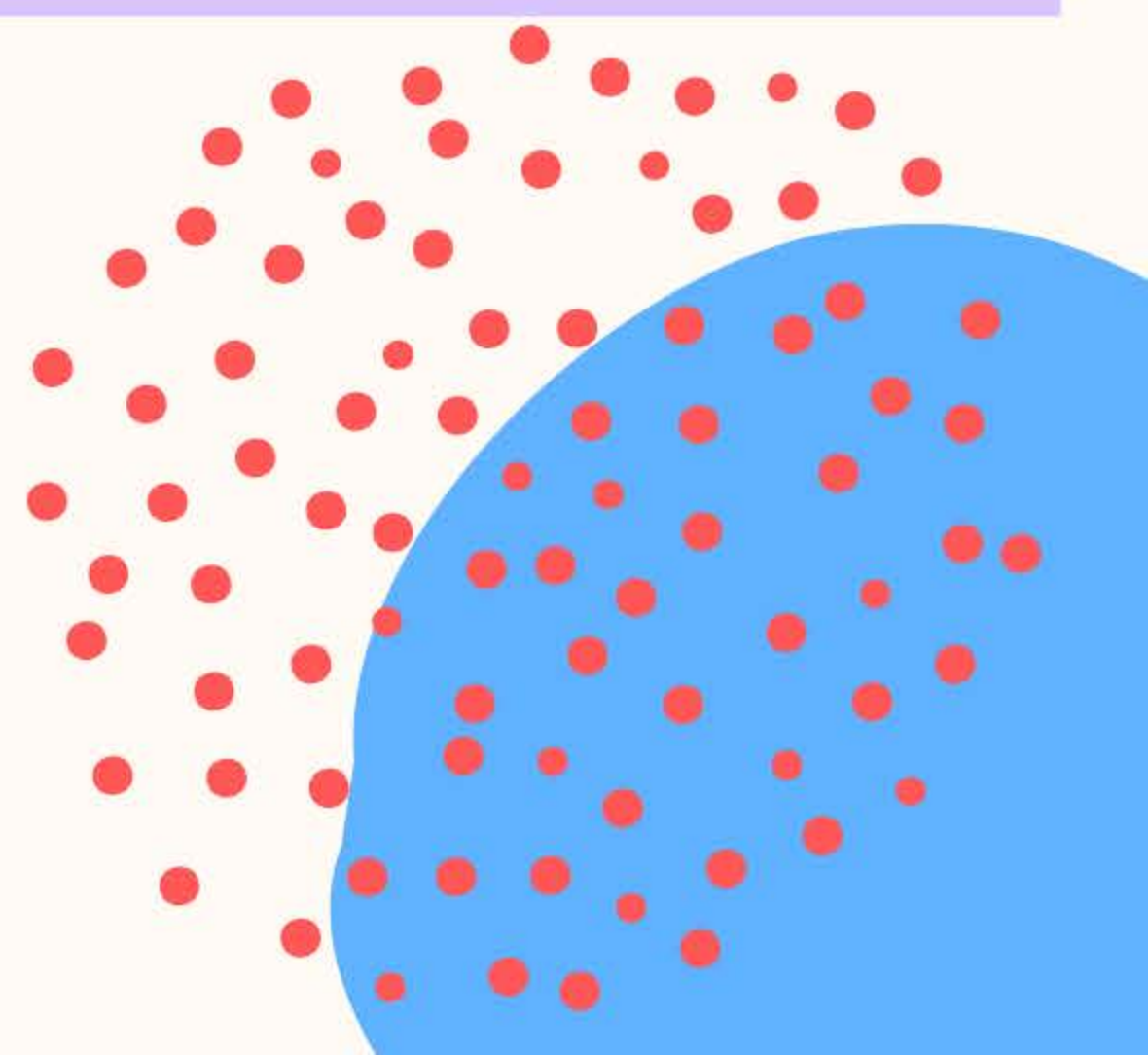
Provide materials such as blocks, boxes, or items for which there doesn't have to be a "correct" way to play with them. This allows for open-ended play.

Allow older toddlers, within reason, to do things for themselves. Attempting, failing, and attempting again gives them confidence, a sense of accomplishment, and will encourage them to try new things.

Encourage older toddlers to participate in routines such as getting dressed, brushing teeth, combing hair, using a tissue, etc.

Provide objects or toys that interest them.

Allow older toddlers to show enjoyment or pride in something they have accomplished and praise them frequently when they do.







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**Allowing for “messes” helps older toddlers trust that it is okay to explore using all their senses.**

**Encourage older toddlers to ask questions when exploring:  
“What’s that?” or “Why?”**

**Allow older toddlers/younger preschoolers to participate in setting the table, cleaning up toys, or other chores.**

**Encourage harder tasks such as putting on their own coat, zipping, or buttoning. Allow for frustration and encourage them to keep trying.**

**Encourage older toddlers/younger preschoolers to remain focused on an activity. Start with a shorter time and work your way up to longer periods of time.**

