

## Nudging Toddlers from “Me”ness to “We”ness

- Discuss toddler’s transition from an ego-centric point of view to a socio-centric perspective (in a world that is focused on the “individual”)
- Explore routines that foster independence and cooperation
- Explore books that “speak” to toddlers and their issues
- Participate in classroom activities as toddlers
- Summarize principles for toddler success

After looking at the developmental milestones, toddlers are only going to cooperate as much as their age allows and will improve with time, so

1. Set realistic expectations
2. Model-model-model cooperation
3. Encourage small gains
4. Accept setbacks as the price for being “in transition”

### Routines:

1. Putting their belongings away at the beginning of the day
2. Washing hands-talk them through it (sequence, smell, feelings)-end with a “Thank you!” (can change to Thank you in other languages)
3. Picking up the toys right away (younger children will need more scaffolding, older children less)
4. Getting blanket from the cubby/ replacing in cubby at end of rest time

### **Songs for Routines:**

Cleaning up-(To tune of Happy Birthday):

Put the toys a-way

For an-oth-er day!

Let’s pick up the toys,

My neat girls and boys!

(And Scooby doo on Channel 2!)

### **Then- (to tune of Clap, Clap, Clap your Hands)**

Neat, neat girls and boys!

Our room looks so much better.

Neat, neat girls and boys!

Work so great together.

**Washing Hands (to tune of Clap, Clap, Clap your Hands**

Wash, wash, wash your hands,

Wash your hands together

Dry, dry, dry your hands,

Dry your hands together!

**Blankets Bop (to tune of Rain, Rain, Go Away)**

Blanket, blanket, put away,

Come again another day,

Little Tommy (insert child’s name) wants to play!

Blankets put away.

**Books to Use with Toddlers**

Title	Author	ISBN	Activity
<b><i>I Can Help-</i></b> A child and his father work side by side.	Marilyn Jantz	155858904X	Ask family members to fill out a survey-What does your son/ daughter help with at home? Discuss in small groups.
The “Pippo” series ( <i>Tom and Pippo</i> ) <b><i>Tom and his “lovey” item, Pippo (stuffed monkey) share adventures</i></b>	Helen Oxenbury		Take a digital photo of the child and his/ her stuffed animal. Post inside his/ her cubby.
<b><i>I Went Walking</i></b>	Sue Williams	9780152380113	Before taking a walk, hand out zip-lock baggies so toddlers can collect one item. Bring bag inside and discuss.
<b><i>I Love You Through and Through and I Love You All the Time</i></b>	Bernadette Rossetti-Sherstak And Jessica Elin Hirshmen and Jennifer Elin Cole	9780439673631	Sing song: Skiddamarink-a -dinka-dink, Skiddamarink-a-doo I love you! (repeat) I love you in the morning, And in the afternoon, I love you in the evening, And underneath the moon, oh,

			Skiddamarink-a -dinka-dink, Skiddamarink-a-doo I love you!
<b><i>Yellow is My Color Star</i></b>	Judy Horacek	9781442492998	Wrap table in butcher paper. Write each child’s name on one space. Child chooses his favorite color crayon to scribble. Display mural.
<b><i>You are My Little Cupcake</i></b>	Amy E. Sklansky	9780316078184	Decorate cupcakes with whipping cream or cool whip and add cheerio sprinkles. Sing: Tune of I’m a Little Teapot- I’m a little cupcake, round and sweet. Here is my head, and here are my feet. Put a little icing round and round Then lick the spoon and gobble me down!
<b><i>Rain, Rain, Go Away</i></b>	Melissa Everett	9781770938984	Have toddlers scribble on a sheet of manila paper. Paint thinned tempera paint over the scribbles, yellow for sun or blue for rain.

### Summarizing Thoughts-Toddler Social Studies and Social Skills:

1. Keep books and activities short and simple. (Respect toddlers’ short attention span.)
2. Offer two acceptable choices, and let toddlers choose. (Gives them sense of control.)
3. Never do for a toddler a task that he/ she can do for himself/ herself.
4. Try reading to toddler short books during snack. (Give them something constructive to do while listening.)
5. Thank toddlers for trying.
6. Take the lead in maintaining a positive climate in the room.
7. Remind toddlers that they are important members of the group or team (we work and play together, and we are lesser if you will not join us.)

### References

Morrison, G. S. (2012). Early childhood education today. (12th Ed.) Pearson: Upper Saddle River, New Jersey. (ISBN 013703458X).

Bredenkamp, S. & Copple, C. (2009). Developmentally appropriate practice in early childhood programs (3rd ed) NAEYC: Washington, DC. (ISBN: 9781928896647).