



# Bright Futures Parent Handout 12 Month Visit

Here are some suggestions from Bright Futures experts that may be of value to your family.

## Family Support

- Try not to hit, spank, or yell at your child.
- Keep rules for your child short and simple.
- Use short time-outs when your child is behaving poorly.
- Praise your child for good behavior.
- Distract your child with something he likes during bad behavior.
- Play with and read to your child often.
- Make sure everyone who cares for your child gives healthy foods, avoids sweets, and uses the same rules for discipline.
- Make sure places your child stays are safe.
- Think about joining a toddler playgroup or taking a parenting class.
- Take time for yourself and your partner.
- Keep in contact with family and friends.

FAMILY SUPPORT

## Establishing Routines

- Your child should have at least one nap. Space it to make sure your child is tired for bed.
- Make the hour before bedtime loving and calm.
- Have a simple bedtime routine that includes a book.
- Avoid having your child watch TV and videos, and never watch anything scary.
- Be aware that fear of strangers is normal and peaks at this age.
- Respect your child's fears and have strangers approach slowly.
- Avoid watching TV during family time.
- Start family traditions such as reading or going for a walk together.

ESTABLISHING ROUTINES

## Feeding Your Child

- Have your child eat during family mealtime.
- Be patient with your child as she learns to eat without help.
- Encourage your child to feed herself.
- Give 3 meals and 2–3 snacks spaced evenly over the day to avoid tantrums.
- Make sure caregivers follow the same ideas and routines for feeding.
- Use a small plate and cup for eating and drinking.
- Provide healthy foods for meals and snacks.
- Let your child decide what and how much to eat.
- End the feeding when the child stops eating.
- Avoid small, hard foods that can cause choking—nuts, popcorn, hot dogs, grapes, and hard, raw veggies.

FEEDING AND APPETITE CHANGES

## Safety

- It is best to keep your child's car safety seat rear-facing until she reaches the seat's weight or height limit for rear-facing use. Do not switch your child to a forward-facing car safety seat until she is at least 1 year old and weighs at least 20 pounds. Most children can ride rear-facing for much longer than 12 months.
- Lock away poisons, medications, and lawn and cleaning supplies. Call Poison Help (1-800-222-1222) if your child eats nonfoods.
- Keep small objects, balloons, and plastic bags away from your child.
- Place gates at the top and bottom of stairs and guards on windows on the second floor and higher. Keep furniture away from windows.
- Lock away knives and scissors.

SAFETY

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ESTABLISHING A DENTAL HOME

- Only leave your toddler with a mature adult.
- Near or in water, keep your child close enough to touch.
- Make sure to empty buckets, pools, and tubs when done.
- Never have a gun in the home. If you must have a gun, store it unloaded and locked with the ammunition locked separately from the gun.

## Finding a Dentist

- Take your child for a first dental visit by 12 months.
- Brush your child's teeth twice each day.
- With water only, use a soft toothbrush.
- If using a bottle, offer only water.

## What to Expect at Your Child's 15 Month Visit

### We will talk about

- Your child's speech and feelings
- Getting a good night's sleep
- Keeping your home safe for your child
- Temper tantrums and discipline
- Caring for your child's teeth

Poison Help: 1-800-222-1222

Child safety seat inspection:  
1-866-SEATCHECK; seatcheck.org



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