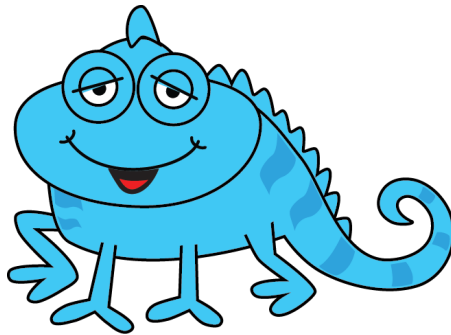


# Just Going Through a Stage:

*A Guide to  
Developmentally  
Appropriate  
Behavior*



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# Ages/Stages/Behaviors

## Age:

- Attention span much better than at previous stages
- Love to “play” at this age
- Trying to navigate and understand social relations
- Based more in reality than fantasy



## Age:

- Quiet stage of development
- Wants to please
- Learning how to play with and use language
- Strong sense of imagination



## Age:

- Dramatic age
- More confident
- Enthusiastic, but lacks energy
- May find it difficult to make decisions – Sees possibilities



## Age:

- High motor activity
- Generally very short attention spans
- Can be dramatic
- Very concrete



# How old is the child? ... Really?

ACT YOUR AGE! There are many things wrong with this statement. The least of which is assuming that chronological age equals other developmental stages.

Ability to Interact with Others in an Appropriate Manner	Ability to Inhibit or Exhibit my Feelings in an Appropriate Manner	Understanding of Right and Wrong and Ability to Make Choices Accordingly	Intelligence Level	Chronological Age

## Teachable Moments for Parents...

- Social – Play Dates, Peer Diversity, Sibling Interaction, Modeling
- Emotional – Calm Role Models, Timing, Self-Regulation Strategies
- Behavioral – Following Directions, Paying Attention, Boundaries
- Ethical – Modeling, Generosity, Compassion, Discussion
- Cognitive – Reading, Talking, Playing, Spending Quality Time

## Continuum of Control



# Strengthening Skills

## Cognitive Development

- Meet the students at their developmental level.
- Provide a strong routine and meet the need for structure.
- Use a multi-modal teaching approach.
- Follow the lead of the students.

## Social Development

- Build in unstructured activities – PLAY.
- Use social skill language purposefully.
- Have partner activities and switch the students up regularly.

## Emotional Development

- Teach emotional “language”.
- Respond to crisis, rather than reacting.
- Show empathy and focus on the feelings.

## Behavioral Development

- Provide structure and practice time.
- Use intermittent reinforcement.
- View behavior as a skill. Discipline is a teachable moment.

## Physical Development

- Provide many outlets for physical activity.
- Make learning ACTIVE
- Educate students and parents on healthy eating.