

Typical Skills Children Learn in Family Day Care

Parents: Here are some examples of the skills your child will learn and practice during a typical day in a family day care setting.

Finding toys or learning materials to work by self or with others

Cognitive: Makes decisions about interests and abilities.

Self-help: Finds toys by himself or sets up environment for play.

Social/Language: Learns to share, barter, manage conflict, and ask for help

Emotional: Learns about acceptance and rejection. Expresses needs.

Block Play

Physical: Learns to balance blocks and line them up (small motor coordination).

Cognitive: May count blocks, sees pattern and design. Learns to build and plan structure. Matches blocks that look alike.

Social: Learns to share and cooperate.

Dramatic Play

Social: Plays adult roles. Develops self-image and coordinates with others.

Language: Learns to express self in another role.

Cognitive: Decides appropriate dress and appearance for role; uses visual perceptions to assess self, others, and play environment. Learns and remembers behaviors to imitate. Develops abstract thinking abilities.

Self-help: Dresses self. Sets up play environment and finds props.

Setting the Table

Cognitive: Counts silverware, glasses, and napkins, or places on object by each setting. Follows pattern of place settings.

Social: Cooperates with other children. May teach younger children to help.

Physical: Picks up and places objects (small motor coordination).

Sitting Down to Eat

Physical: Pours milk, passes the dish (small motor coordination).

Cognitive: Measures to pour. Understands directions.

Social/Language: Learns appropriate table conversation and manners.

Story time or Listening to Music

Cognitive: Listens and retains information. Follows story line (sequencing) with eyes and/or ears. Recognizes words, pictures, instruments, and rhythms.

Fingerplays and Songs

Cognitive/Language: Learns words, gestures, and melody (sequencing,

repetition, speech and listening skills). Follows directions.
Physical: Coordinates movements (large motor).

Dance

Cognitive/Language: Listens to music and rhythms. Learns to understand simple movement directions and their relationship to the music.
Physical: Coordinates movements (large motor).

Climbing/Riding

Cognitive: May count the rungs to the top of a climbing structure; plans his climb. Maps out direction and distance to ride; watches for others in path.
Physical: Large motor coordination, balance.
Social: Takes turns, interacts.

Sand Play

Cognitive: Measures sand and maps out roads (spatial relationships).
Physical: Pours, dumps, pushes, gathers, scoops, packs (small and large motor).
Social: Shares, interacts, cooperates.

Putting Toys Away

Cognitive: Sorts toys, follows directions.
Physical: Places object on the shelf, replaces lids, opens and shuts doors.
Social: Takes turns, learns to handle toys carefully.