

# CHILD PROTECTION FOR TODDLERS

CHILD PROTECTION TO KEEP YOUR TODDLER SAFE FROM HARM - PHYSICALLY, EMOTIONALLY, AND SOCIALLY - WHILE HELPING THEM LEARN HOW TO STAY SAFE IN THE GROWING WORLD TODAY.

## KEY PRINCIPLES OF TODDLER PROTECTION

### Create a Safe Physical Environment

- **Childproof your home** - Secure furnitures, block stairways, cover electrical outlets, keep sharp or choking hazards out of reach
- **Safe spaces for play** - always supervise your toddler. Choose age-appropriate, non-toxic toys
- **Water safety** - never leave your toddler alone in or near water



### Talk about “SAFE TOUCH”

Help your child understand the difference between welcome, unwanted, and unsafe touch.



### Model and Teach Consent

- Teach your child that they can say “no” to hugs, kisses, or touch - even from relatives
- Always ask permission before picking up or touching your child. This models respectful boundaries.

### Supervise Social Interactions

- Always supervise interactions with other children and adults, even in familiar setting
- Encourage your toddler to come to you if they feel uncomfortable or scared



### Foster Open Communication

- Use daily routines (bath time, bedtime, meals) to check in with how your toddler is feeling.
- Respond calmly and supportively if your child expresses fear or discomfort to help build trust



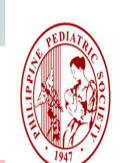
### Practice Digital Safety

- Limit screen time.
- If screens are used, use co-viewing to make sure you supervise what your toddler sees.
- Never share photos of your child online without strong privacy settings - and never in vulnerable states (e.g., diaper changes)



### Teach Body Safety Early

- **Use correct names for body parts** - This helps your child communicate clearly and reduces shame
- **Explain “private parts”** - Teach private parts are not for others to touch or look at, except for hygiene or medical reasons - and only with a trusted adult present.



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## DEVELOPMENTALLY APPROPRIATE GUIDANCE

- **1-2 Years Old** - Use simple, clear language. Show what safe behavior looks like (e.g., “gentle hands”)
- **2-3 Years Old** - Start using basic explanations. Role-play safe vs unsafe scenarios (e.g. what to do if someone says “Let’s keep this a secret”)

## PARENTING TIPS

- Tantrums are very common during this age and such behaviors may be difficult for many adults and children may be prone for abuse.
  - Understanding that children usually misbehave during this time because they do not know the rules or cannot reliably follow the rules
  - Create a context of warmth and responsiveness to maintain a good relationship, even if the child’s behavior violates rules or expectations.
  - Do not take your child’s misbehavior personally.
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- When talking to them, use simple, clear language. Use demonstration on top of verbal instructions. Show what safe behavior looks like (e.g., “gentle hands”)
  - Present instructions one at a time and ensure that the child is paying attention. Make specific and basic explanations. You can do role playing of what safe and unsafe scenarios may be considered (e.g., What do we do if someone says “Let’s keep this a secret”)
  - Toddlers enjoy nudity. Parents should then model appropriate behavior as to where nudity is appropriate (e.g. only during bathing with a trusted adult)
  - Toddlers may tend to grab private parts or breasts of adults in public specially those transitioning from breastfeeding. Model appropriate touch and asking permission to show respectful boundaries.
  - Toddlers also discover about pleasureable self-touch. This is normal for their age. Parents/caregivers should then model appropriate touch without shaming the child.
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- Toddlers like to wander away from their carevgivers or home. To promote autonomy while also keeping the child safe, prevention is key.
  - Implement safety measures in your home (e.g., placing locks at the top part of the door)

