

Preparation for the Toddler Years

Summary Points - Visit 4 - Chapters 10 & 11

Segment 1

1. Be careful not to encourage the growth of any seed that will have to be “weeded out” at a later age.
2. Transitional objects are common items children carry into the next phase of development.
3. The pacifier and bottle are two “transitional objects” parents should work on eliminating from their pretoddler’s day.
4. Staying consistent with your boundaries pays positive behavioral dividends during the day.
5. Include your pretoddler’s name when giving instruction.
6. Employ the practice of “substitution” instead of “suppression”.
 - a. To suppress is to deny the child a specific action or access.
 - b. To substitute is to offer an equally desirable experience in place of what the child is doing.
7. Remember to keep your child’s play environment age-appropriate.

Segment 2

1. Direct and redirect with your voice tones.
2. Utilize an attention getting hand squeeze.
3. Defining training options:
 - a. To isolate: removes the child from a challenging circumstance.
 - b. To distract: redirects a child’s attention.
 - c. To redirect: is to point a child in another direction.
4. Teach your pretoddler consequences by removing items he should not be touching.
5. Physical correction, such as a swat may become appropriate toward the end of this transition.
6. Remember, the best form of correction is prevention.

Segment 3

1. Remember every child is different and every family unique; not all desired behaviors are achieved at the same time.
2. Stay mindful of the parenting goal.
3. Focus on not losing any ground with your pretoddler; by not losing ground you are actually gaining ground.
4. Do not underestimate the speed in which your pretoddler advances in cognitive skills.
5. The GrowingFamilies.Life website provides many resources for parents of pretoddlers and preschoolers.