

# Welcome, Toddler!

Here are some tips I've put together for 1-2 year olds over the years that I'd like to share with you. You are all smart and loving parents, but you probably haven't had loads of toddlers come through your door with different products and problems and questions and solutions. It's kind of a unique position to be in, and so here are some things I've learned! Please feel free to share anything YOU would like to add. I'd love to hear.

## **Safe Sleep**

Once they turn 2, you should think about transitioning them out of the crib and into a "big kid bed," even if it's on the floor. They start to become at risk of climbing out of the crib and hurting themselves otherwise.

Once they turn 2, it also starts to be ok to have a special stuffy or blanky to sleep with. And it's a great idea to send a "special" to daycare with them, so they have that reminder of home, and so they don't get jealous if other kids bring one. We have teddies and dollies at daycare, but it's not the same as your own.

## **Binkies**

WubbaNubs are ok now, but please don't use them for infants under 1 year old, as they are a choking hazard. Invest in a binky strap as they start toddling around and losing binkies willy nilly.

## **Wipes**

Most wipes are fine, but some are exceedingly thin or exceedingly perfumed, and I find them to be a pain in the butt (hehe). My favorite out of all the brands I've experienced is Seventh Generation. They are thick, soft, easy to get out of the package, and safe for faces and hands as well as bums.

## **Diaper Cream**

Desitin works fine, but once I discovered Boudreaux's Butt Paste, I stopped getting anything else. It is a nice, thick cream that goes on easily and smells a bit like cinammon. Not all babies need diaper cream, but if you do, try this one!

## **Drinking**

It's time to transition away from bottles, and the best sippy cup out there is the Munchkin 360 (or similar). This is good for them because it helps them learn to drink out of a "normal" cup, and it's good for you, because it doesn't leak like most sippy cups do. Unless they toss it on the floor. Which they will. But then, every cup would leak in that scenario.

**Nipple Cream**

If you still have some Lansinoh Lanolin Cream leftover from nursing, use it as chapstick. It's not as addictive as normal chapstick, and if it's safe for baby's lips, it's safe for yours!

**Cold Weather Gear**

Toddlers do not keep their gloves on. Period. It's also really hard to get their little fingers in the finger holes of gloves. And you know what? They don't care. So here is my recommendation: Get WATERPROOF MITTENS. Make sure they are as long as possible to fit under coat sleeves. Make sure they have one of those little straps around the wrist to secure them snugly. Then put them on BEFORE you put their coats on, and put the coats over them. Works pretty well :) Just make sure their coats have large enough wrist holes that gloves will fit through...

Another great thing on coats is a hood that snaps under their chin. Since, guess what, they don't keep hats on either!