



## 20 Traits Children Exhibit on the Journey to Positive Behavior

1. Use their curiosity to explore and learn about the world around them. (This includes putting things in their noses and in the toilet.)
2. Be unique individuals in interests, temperament, and moods. (Moods may change hourly, so you can never actually be sure of what is in store.)
3. Differ in how they learn and in the care they need.
4. Develop at their own pace and in a way that integrates their interests and enthusiasm.
5. Let others know their feelings, needs, and wants by expressing themselves in often dramatic inappropriate ways. (Sometimes a tantrum is the only thing they can think of.)
6. Become social beings while maintaining their uniqueness and individuality.
7. Expect the unconditional acceptance and love of the adults who care for them. (When you are frustrated by the children, stop a moment, and think about how cute they are when they're napping.)
8. Grow and develop in an environment that is safe and healthy.
9. Test all the limits by using their actions to test the reactions of people and things. (Sometimes they drive you crazy because it's fun and you give them lots of attention.)
10. Use their bodies to test the properties of people, things, and space. (Smashing into another group of toddlers is a great way for a child to say, "I'm here.")
11. Explode with energy. (They love to run, scream, and push and dump things.)
12. Explode with frustration because they have little patience. You don't always have that much patience either.)
13. Be contrary by refusing, defying, and resisting others because they are learning that they can exert control. (Children have little control over their worlds. Adults can eat cookies whenever they want. Children can't.)
14. Be cooperative.
15. Be responsible.
16. Act Silly.
17. Experience separation intensely at times.
18. Develop self confidence.
19. Learn to interact with peers and others.
20. Look at others to accept and appreciate the wonderful people they are and will become.

*Sources:*

Schweikert, Gigi. With Jeniece Decker and Jennifer Romanoff. 2016. "Winning Ways For Early Childhood Professionals. Supporting Positive Behavior." Redleaf Press. St. Paul, MN.

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