

Milestone 5: Creating emotional ideas—During this stage, children use pretend play to explore their feelings and make sense of their world. When you help children express their feelings through words and gestures, you promote their emotional development. If children’s emotions make you uncomfortable, you may find yourself stopping play that includes anger and aggression. Rather than limiting children’s exploration of these emotions, *The Creative Curriculum* encourages you to acknowledge their feelings and model or suggest an appropriate way to express them.

Milestone 6: Emotional thinking—By this milestone, children link ideas and begin to deal with the world logically. For example, rather than simply hugging a doll, a child might explain that the doll is sad because she fell down and hurt her knee. They begin to connect ideas that pertain to “me” and “not me” and to distinguish reality from fantasy. *The Creative Curriculum* explains how to help toddlers and twos connect their ideas by asking them about their opinions and by extending their play. You also help them realize that actions have consequences and that the present has implications for the future.

Major Ideas	<i>The Creative Curriculum</i>
<p>Erik Erikson Social and emotional learning is a lifelong process that begins at birth. When adults are responsive to children’s needs, children resolve the tension between trust and mistrust, and between autonomy and shame.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and maintain a trusting relationship with each child. • Implement nurturing, trust-building routines. • Provide responsive caregiving to meet the individual needs of children. • Provide learning experiences that help children feel competent. • Offer children appropriate choices and challenges.
<p>Stanley Greenspan Six emotional milestones mark the emotional development of very young children. Children develop an understanding of themselves and the world through relationships and emotions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assign primary caregivers to infants and toddlers, to help build trusting, loving relationships. • Talk with children, even before they understand anything you are saying. • Respond to children’s communication attempts. • Help children express their emotions appropriately. • Provide many opportunities for pretend play.

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