

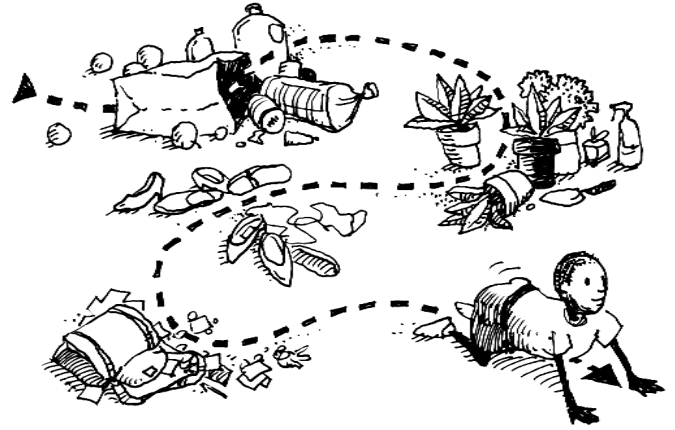
I'm Learning by Exploring

I'm having a great time playing with the pots and pans I pulled out of the kitchen cupboards. Before that, I had fun exploring the trashcan I tipped over in the bathroom. And before that, I was having fun making marks on the living room wall with a red marker. The marker looks good on my face, arms, and stomach too.

I don't understand why everyone gets so upset when they see all the neat things I've done.

What I Want You to Know

I learn about the world around me by exploring. The world is full of new and interesting things! I want to touch, taste, push, and play with everything I can get my hands on.



My constant exploring and mess making won't last forever. As I get older, pots and pans, trashcans, and marking on walls won't seem so interesting. I'll get interested in other things like games, creative play, and building with blocks. By then, I'll have a better idea what things I shouldn't do. I'll also be able to ask for your help and advice as I get older. I really

appreciate your gentle guidance as I explore the world around me.

Here's How You Can Help Me

I need to explore, so not everything should be off limits. Make some places that are just for me. Have a special drawer for me in the kitchen filled with child-friendly stuff. Keep a basket of toys in the family room, bedroom, and bathroom. I will need some things that are safe to play with (and that won't drive you crazy) everywhere I go.

I am doing exactly what I'm supposed to be doing for my age. When you get mad, yell, or punish me, it scares me. I don't understand it either. I may not even know why you are upset. Please be patient with me.

I'll bet you got into things too when you were my age, even if you don't remember. Ask grandma. She'll tell you it's true.

Make sure the things you don't want me to play with are out of my reach. Store household chemicals and medications up high. Put latches on the cupboards if you don't want me pulling out the pots and pans. Put trashcans inside a cupboard or somewhere out of reach. Don't leave markers where I can get them. I need your help to resist all the cool stuff in our house that's unsafe for me.

Please *provide me with lots of interesting things to play with that are suitable* for a child my age. By doing that, I'll become a happy and inquisitive adult.

University of Arkansas, United States Department of Agriculture and County Governments Cooperating

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