# Do you have “ME DO!” toddlers who are craving self-accomplishment?

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To build self-sufficiency and independence, toddlers need to have opportunities to succeed in simple tasks. Allowing toddlers to begin: eating with utensils, completing simple chores, brushing teeth or hair, etc., with your support and praise, an environment is created in which they feel safe for further explorations and independence. Within the nurturing relationship and by acknowledging children’s efforts to try, complete and exceed at new skills, they feel proud of themselves, are more willing to follow your instructions and begin helping peers be successful. Begin by setting up the room to encourage independence, then, watch, with delight, as toddlers learn and grow and DO for themselves and others.

## Tips for Everyday Activities:

* Follow child’s curiosity.

“Johnny, I see you trying to put your coat on. Put one arm in first.”

* Talk about what is successful.

“Suzy, you took your toothbrush and began brushing your teeth.”

* Review the completed the task.

“Shamus, you put the dustpan on the floor and used the brush to push the crumbs on it!”

* Encourage others while praising child.

“Janie, you put one arm in your coat, then the next and you pulled the zipper. Who else wants to try?”

## Citation:

 “Toddler Independence: The Surprising Things Your Child Can Do All by Herself” retrieved at: <https://www.whattoexpect.com/toddler/photo-gallery/toddler-independence.aspx>

For more tips on toddler independence, try this website: <https://www.scholastic.com/teachers/articles/teaching-content/ages-stages-nuturing-young-childrens-independence/>

