



## Affirmations and Jobs of the Child

### **Stage Three—Thinking**

*From about 18 months to about 3 years*

In order to separate from parents, children must learn to think and solve problems. Learning to express and handle feelings is also important. These lessons are the focus of Stage three—the thinking stage.

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**Directions:** Read the affirmations. For each affirmation, draw a line to the job that the affirmation supports.

#### Jobs of the child - developmental tasks

1. To establish ability to think for self.
2. To test reality, to push against boundaries and the authority of others.
3. To learn to think and solve problems with cause and effect thinking.
4. To start to follow simple safety commands: come, wait, stop, go, stay here.
5. To express anger and other feelings.
6. To separate from parents without losing their love.
7. To start to give up beliefs about being the center of the universe.
8. To learn to do simple chores.
9. To continue tasks from earlier stages.

THINKING  
**I'm glad  
you are  
starting to  
think for  
yourself.**

THINKING  
**It's OK for  
you to be  
angry and I  
won't let you  
hurt yourself  
or others.**

THINKING  
**You can say  
no and push  
and test limits  
as much as  
you need to.**

THINKING  
**You can  
think and  
feel at the  
same time.**

THINKING  
**You can know  
what you  
need  
and ask for  
help.**

THINKING  
**You can  
become  
separate from  
me and I will  
continue to  
love you.**

THINKING  
**You can  
learn to think  
for yourself  
and I will think  
for myself.**

yellow