



Understanding what makes your toddler tick - the key to a happy, well-balanced child



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Latest News

Dear Toddler Sense Parents,

It gives me great joy to finally be writing this very first Toddler Sense newsletter!

The Toddler Sense website has been in the making for the past 2 ½ years since the launch of **Toddler Sense**, my follow-on book to *Baby Sense* (co-authored with Megan Faure: Metz Press 2002). Both books, thanks to you, our loyal readers, have become South African bestsellers. With the launch of the very first [Toddler Sense Seminars 2008](#), taking place in May this year (see separate invitation on this page), the time is right to have a website devoted entirely to what you and your toddler need for these exciting years ahead. Have a look on www.toddlersense.co.za.

Dr Christopher Green in his book *Toddler Taming Tips* (Vermillion, 2003) says that this period of time in your child's life is characterised by certain goals for toddlers and specific roles for parents.

Your role as a parent is to

- guide gently
- set limits and introduce controls
- avoid confrontation; and
- be 100 per cent firm when needed

Your toddler's goals are to

- learn to control his body and behaviours
- be able to separate from his parents
- learn that tantrums don't always work
- become toilet trained; and
- learn to share possessions and respect others' rights and possessions.

Imagine that your child is faced with a huge, empty canvas. As he grows and develops from a one year old tottering around on chubby legs, to a round toddler with a big head, to the more athletic build of a pre-schooler, he will 'paint' his way through these exciting and wondrous years, taking you with him on this precious journey. Join me as I accompany you on this journey, helping you to understand your child better so that you can help him benefit best from his world. This months article focuses on what actually constitutes toddler behaviour

I look forward to receiving your input, whether it is a gorgeous picture of your toddler for our brag book section, a question that you might like to ask, or a topic you feel strongly about. So, get writing moms and dads, I would love to hear from you!

Don't forget about our [Netcare Storks Nest Toddler Sense Seminar](#) date – 24 May 2008 - where you will be able to join myself (Ann Richardson) and other experts for an information- packed morning or afternoon, scrumptious tea, and fabulous giveaways. Talk and Associate sponsors include [Aspen](#), [Vermox](#), [Pampers](#) and [MSD pharmaceuticals](#), as well as many great exhibitors. I look forward to meeting you on the day. Book early – seats are limited!

As a community drive, we have included the [African Children's Feeding Scheme](#) into our seminars this year, and invite you to bring along any clothing, shoes and blankets you no longer need. Winter is on its icy way and imagine the difference we could make to many children's lives if each of us donates a single blanket!

Have a peaceful and blessed Easter, and if you are going away, please do drive safely and remember to buckle up your whole family.

Until next month,
My very best wishes,
Ann Richardson

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