Today I speak for all the mothers out there. I am going to be taking you through the step by step process of how to get your toddler ready for the day. Occasionally the steps may be out of order, but the process is generalized into an average morning. This how-to can be applied to any morning including getting them ready for daycare, or just getting ready for the day on the weekend. Today is one of my days off. I truly could not think of a better topic of discussion to share with everyone.

The first step is my least favorite part – waking up. On a usual day, the toddler will wake up before you. Now, an important part to understand is that toddlers wake up better than we adults do. When toddlers wake up, they are ready to roll. My toddler is usually bouncing in his bed first thing. On an interesting day, you may hear a sound that resembles yodeling. On other days, you'll hear screaming like a banshee which can only come from a small human. Only time will tell on determining what kind of noise you will wake up to. I prepare breakfast when I am fully awake.

Step two is to prepare breakfast for your toddler. My toddler's favorite meal to eat for breakfast is pancakes and bacon. This is a great combination, however adding a toddler to the mix is a whole other concept. During this endeavor, you will need to strap your toddler into their highchair. This is such an important concept. If you elect not to strap them in, or have them free-seated, you will be juggling several tasks. For one instance, distracting them from getting down from the chair and running to the stove. Yes, I said it, you have to keep them away. Most children see objects differently than we adults do. When we see burners, we know to keep back. When toddlers see burners, they are curious and want to touch them. Once breakfast is cooked and served, be prepared for cleaning up stuck-on pancakes to the wall and their bodies as you both eat.

Step three is *bath time!* For toddlers, this is a time for self-discovery. By self-discovery, I really mean "*how much water can I get on the outside of the tub?"* or "*how far can I throw this extremely wet, squishy bath toy?"* The opportunities are truly endless. You must remember to stay alert to avoid bathroom floor flooding. Be sure to clean up all the syrup stuck in their hair from breakfast. If you choose not to do it now, it will likely cause a greater, tangled mess later in the day. Soap up the child well, then rinse, and dry off.

The next step challenges your strength and patience, so get ready. Step four is dressing your toddler. This is the infamous challenge. It is unlike dressing your newborn baby. When I'm dressing my toddler, I compare my daily experience to taming a rabid animal. Your toddler will flail about as you struggle with the diaper, socks, pants and t-shirt. I have had the best luck with jacket and shoes. Your toddler knows the routine and can normally predict what comes next. My kid will put his own shoes and jacket on. Your toddler may have variations of what he or she will help you with.

Each step you go through in the morning will vary. From experience, you will have a sense of accomplishment at the end of the day. A task has been well done that has had some meaning. Though there are random hiccups in the mix, Google and my in-laws have been excellent resources for me for additional challenges.