



young child development

Three to Five years*

Communication: (Talking, Listening, Reading and Writing)

- Carries out three to four easy, combined directions. (For example: "Please go to the front door, get your shoes and take them to your bedroom.")
- Uses four to eight words in a sentence.
- Carries on a conversation and ask questions.
- Uses endings on words such as "ed" and "ing."
- Sing nursery rhymes and can tell what happens next in a story.
- Uses symbols and shapes to initiate early writing, then will begin to copy and form some letters.

Cognitive: (Early thinking and problem-solving)

- Groups items into a category (for example: dogs, cats and horses are animals).
- Begins to understand the concepts of less versus more and same versus different.
- Identifies four to eight colors and some shapes.
- Duplicates and finishes easy patterns (for example: red-yellow, red-yellow, red-yellow).
- Counts up to ten objects out loud and begins to recognize some numbers.
- Attempts focused play for up to ten minutes.

Personal-Social: (Interactions and independence)

- Tells first and last name and home address.
- Labels different feelings.
- Begins to take turns and cooperate most of the time.
- Helps with family chores and meal times.
- Eats with little spilling and dresses with minimal help.
- Brushes teeth and washes body independently.
- Recognizes and reacts to feelings of others.

Motor skills: (large and small muscle control)

- Catches and kicks a ball.
- Balances on one foot for at least five seconds.
- Hops, climbs and walks on tiptoes.
- Uses alternating feet when climbing stairs.
- Strings beads, begins to zip and button, and manipulates scissors.
- Imitates drawing shapes and lines.
- Completes six-piece puzzles.
- Stacks blocks at least nine high and attempts to construct buildings.

RESOURCES FOR PARENTS AND SERVICE PROVIDERS OF PRESCHOOL AGED CHILDREN

Websites

<http://www.cyfernet.org>

<http://www.highscope.org>

<http://www.childtrends.org>

<http://www.naeyc.org>

Books

Eager to Learn: Educating Our Preschoolers by B. Bowman, et al.

Keys to Parenting Your Three Year Old by S. Gottlieb

Keys to Parenting Your Four Year Old by M. Wallace

Keys to Parenting Your Five Year Old by M. White

500 Five Minute Games (Quick and Easy Activities For 3-6 Year Olds) by J. Silberg

*Resources used to compile information are the following:

Bricker, Diane and Squires, Jane. (1999). *Ages and Stages Questionnaires: A Parent-Compiled, Child Monitoring System, Second Edition.*

Born to Learn Curriculum, Three Years to Kindergarten Entry. (1999)

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