

# 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."
- Singing 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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