

3 Years

Motion

Appetite may decline because he is so interested in everything else and he isn't growing as rapidly
Can combine a vertical and horizontal crayon stroke to make a cross
Copies a circle
Can combine 3 cubes to build a bridge
Builds tower of 8 blocks
Builds tower of 9 blocks
Pedals a tricycle
Climbs on easy nursery playground toys
Can dodge, throw, stop-go, turn sharp corner
More nimble on feet - no longer walks with arms outstretched - swings them as adults do
Runs without falling much

Self Help

Dresses partially - depending on mood; puts on shoes and undresses almost entirely
Puts on some of own clothing
Buttons up some clothing, but may need help
Can put on shoes and unbutton some buttons
Holds cup by handle, tips head back to get last drip
Washes self
Dries own hands
Can run errands

Thinking/Speech

Loves to talk
Uses plurals, past tense, personal pronouns, prepositions
Is curious - asks "what?" "where?" "when?"
Asks frequent questions to which he already knows the answers
Likes to learn new words
Can count to 3
Can compare 2 objects, which requires a 3 step logic
Likes to compare 2 objects
Can follow 2 commands involving "on," "under," or "behind" (without gestures)
Understands simple explanations
When asked, points to 6 parts of the body (hair, nose, eyes, feet, hands, and mouth)
Combines several words, such as "Daddy catch fish" or "Gramps go home"
Makes 3-4 word sentences
Names several objects, such as car, chair, key, fork, and box
Knows his first name
Knows last name, sex, street on which he lives, simple rhymes
Is responsive to rhythm, has enough control to reproduce sound patterns
Can recognize familiar melodies and sing simple songs, not always on pitch
Can make a choice and abide by it
Asks help if he needs it
May not be able to do 2 things at once, as talk and eat

Can suggest his liking for a meal

Social/Play

Often wants to play alone with toys

May still play by self quite happily, but is more likely to be playing beside other children (parallel play) and will later move into more cooperative play

Enjoys playmates

May help a shy child if this is suggested

Has no sex preference in play

Begins to combine planes, trains, and cars with his block play

Shows order and balance in block building

Can wait turn in play and games

Has more flexible personal relations

Will "read" from picture books

Enjoys watching people at work, steam shovels, cement mixer in operation

Helpful in household chores (wiping dishes, putting things away, running simple errands)

Progressed from "I" to "We"

Needs large range of play materials to satisfy his widening play interest

Needs toys for imaginative play indoors

Needs "exercise" equipment and toys for outdoors

Likes paint, crayons, clay

Uses varied and rhythmical strokes in painting and drawing

Likes to have his picture and artwork saved

Very good imagination

Hasn't made clear distinction between what is true and what is make-believe

May have imaginary playmate

Affect

Good equilibrium

Happy and contented, enjoys self quietly

Emotional as well as physical self-control

Friendly, helpful

Mildly affectionate

Sure of self, less turned in on self

More ready to accept suggestions

Assertion/Anger

Increased self-control and less aggression

Increased use of language may take place of physical aggressiveness

Anger now aroused less by interference with physical activity and more by interference with plans and possessions

Aggressiveness is now expressed in words as well as actions

Can get almost as much relief from anger and resentment by wreaking vengeance on an imaginary person as on a real one

Needs help in finding ways to get rid of troublesome feelings without harming others or being made to feel guilty