

4 Years

Motion

Cuts with scissors
Catches a bounced ball
Traces a diamond shape
Copies a cross
Swings when given a push
Runs well and rarely falls. Turns corners while running.
Hops on 1 foot
Stands on 1 foot
Builds tower with 9 blocks
Holds crayons with fingers rather than fist

Thinking/Speech

Speaks in sentences of about 5 words
Describes what a picture is about
Understands the difference between 1 and 2
Understands the meaning of words, such as “cold,” “tired,” and “hungry”
Recognizes 2 or 3 colors
Recites a song or nursery rhyme from memory
Uses past tense, properly

Social/Play/Self Help

Dresses and undresses with little or no help
Dries face and hands
Separates from parent easily (can be left with a babysitter without getting very upset)
Understands taking turns, but may not always want to do it
Joins in play with other children. Cooperates with other children. Likes to play games, such as tag.

Affect

Out of bounds
Quarrelsome, argumentative
May be selfish, rough, impatient with younger siblings
May be jealous of parents together
Proud of own products and creations
Silly boisterous humor, silly rhyming, silly names, silly showing off
Tattles, exaggerates, boasts, tells tall tales, calls names, threatens is profane or mildly obscene

Assertion/Anger

Physically aggressive; bites, hits, kicks, throws
Verbally aggressive; calls names, brags, boasts, rough and careless with toys
May aggressively exclude others from group

Fears/Worries

Auditory fears, especially fire engines
People of different color, old people, the dark, animals, parent leaving - especially at night
Uses the word “afraid” or “scared”

Enjoys being mildly frightened by adult in play

Expressive Language

Expressive ability increases with new experiences

Increase in adjectives, adverbs, prepositions, conjunctions

Articles and plurals appear

Sentence length: 4-5 words

Syntax quite good

Proper noun decreases, pronoun use increases

Vocabulary: 1500-2000 words

Articulation

y, ing, d

Receptive Language

Follows a series of 3 commands

Names 3-5 colors

Understands dependent clause "if," "why," "when," "because"