

## 4 years old

*"Silly, imaginative, and energetic, your child loves to try new words and new activities."*

### Socio-Emotional

- Begins to understand the concept of taking turns
- Plays hide and seek, cops and robbers, or other games where he takes turns and follow rules
- Plays pretend games, such as with toys, dolls, animals, or even an imaginary friend
- Shows some understanding of moral reasoning (exploring ideas about fairness and good or bad behavior)
- Enjoys imaginative play with other children, like dress up or house

### Physical

- Pedals a tricycle at least 10 feet forward
- Draws three parts of a person
- Turns book pages one at a time
- Can copy a circle
- Can brush teeth, comb hair, wash, and dress with little assistance
- Is starting to control finger activities
- Draws stick figures
- Walks up and down the stairs without assistance and with alternating feet

### Language

- Uses action words (verbs)
- Asks "who" and "why" questions
- Begins to use complex sentences
- Is able to retell stories that are familiar (but may confuse facts)
- Pretends to write, making marks on a page
- Uses 4 to 5 word sentences when talking
- Is fond of playing with words
- Responds to verbal directions
- Uses a 1,500-word vocabulary
- Knows the sounds of most of the letters of the alphabet

### Cognitive

- Names pictures in books or magazines
- Is able to tell what action is taking place in a picture
- Is able to identify primary and secondary colors
- Recognizes and names several single numbers
- Refers to causality by using "because" and "so"
- Understands, mostly, the difference between fantasy and reality
- Begins to grasp that pictures and symbols can represent real objects

## 5 years old

*"Your cooperative, easy-going 5-year-old loves to play and that's how he learns."*

### Socio-Emotional

- Reacts well when you leave him with a friend or sitter
- Has a sense of self-identity
- Enjoys group plays, competitive games
- Now respects authority
- Insists on fair play
- Distinguishes right from wrong, honest from dishonest, but does not recognize intent
- Seeks to play rather than be alone; friends are important
- Plays with boys and girls but prefers the same sex

### Physical

- Buttons some of his or her clothing or doll's clothes (snaps do not count)
- Walks down the stairs with alternating feet
- Jumps forward with feet apart (broad jump)
- Colors within lines
- Can copy a square
- Cuts on a line with scissors
- Can skip using alternate feet
- Enjoys running, jumping and doing stunts
- Grasps pencil like an adult

### Language

- Has sentence length of 5-6 words
- Uses speech sounds correctly, possible exceptions of *v, th, j, s, z, r, l, sh* and *ch*
- Uses a variety of sentence structures
- Uses future, present and past tenses
- Shows interest and appreciation for print and on self
- Prints first name
- Participates in conversations
- Has a vocabulary of around 2000 words

### Cognitive

- Points while counting at least 3 different objects
- Defines familiar words
- Knows address
- Understands "same" and "different"
- Counts 10 objects
- Asks questions for information
- Identifies right and left hand on self
- Questions are less superficial, addressing meaning and purpose

## 6 years old

*"At 6, your child is curious, active, and becoming engrossed in school and new friendships."*

### Socio-Emotional

- Has marked awareness of sexual differences
- Grows more independent, yet may feel less secure
- Wants to win in games and may change rules to fit own needs
- May be hurt by criticism, blame or punishment
- Is increasingly aware that others may have different feelings
- Friendships may sometimes be unstable, may sometimes be unkind to peers
- Makes social connections through play
- Likes to bring home evidence of good work

### Physical

- Can tie his shoes on his own
- Can dress himself completely without help
- Can catch a small bouncing ball, such as a tennis ball, using only his hands. (Large balls do not count)
- Skips with both feet
- Is able to learn to ride a bicycle
- Enjoys challenges in balancing
- Is hungry at short intervals
- Learns to skip with rope
- Is vigorous, full of energy, and generally restless
- Skillfully cuts out a picture using scissors

### Language

- Recognizes and names at least 10 letters in the alphabet
- Knows the sounds of most letters of the alphabet
- Recognizes and reads 15 or more common words/ Begins to independently read simple words like *cat, ham, rat* and *ball*
- Copies a few simple words from a book
- Uses adult-like grammar in sentences and conversations
- Spells out simple words

### Cognitive

- Repeats at least four numbers in the proper sequence
- Names days of week in order
- Predicts the next sequence of events and tells a 4- to 5-part story
- Can tell month and day of birthday
- Can tell name and address
- Asks a lot of "why", "what", and "how" questions
- Brings dramatic play closer to reality by paying attention to detail, time and space