

Behavior Expected in Preschool Children

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Curriculum Area	Expected Behavior		
	At Three Years	At Four Years	At Five Years
Health and Safety	Judges how far to climb and return safely	Handles blunt scissors safely	Handles saw and hammer safely
	Urinates without help unless clothing is complex	Knows the blood forms a scab to protect new skin	Puts away toys and closes cupboard doors
		Unzips, unsnaps, and unbuckles	Goes to bathroom by himself
Physical Development	Walks a board holding adult's hand	Walks along a walking board	Walks a narrow curb
	Stops or goes on the slide	Explores variations on the slide	Swings by himself
	Likes to swing	Leans to pump in swinging	Cuts on the line
	Climbs a ladder	Goes down fireman's pole	Learns to skip
	Learns to jump	Learns to hop	
Social Understanding	Enjoys his own birthday	Takes turns	Waits for his turn
	Enjoys simple house play and dressing up	Enjoys birthdays and Christmas	Enjoys birthdays and other holidays
	Learns to move with the group activities	Extends dramatic play – doctor, store, police, delivery man	Extends dramatic play further
		Explores leader or follower role in group activities	Enlarges his feeling of belonging to the group
Science	Knows where he came from	Knows death is part of life	Knows how he was conceived
	Knows where his food goes	Knows sounds, nests, and other things about animals	Knows what foods different animals eat
	Names several animals	Makes his own observations	Reports what he observes
	Observes what is pointed out		
Geography	Knows relation of rooms indoors	Uses landmarks	Draws and uses a simple map
	Recognizes his own home	Can go around the block	Walks several blocks to school
		Recognizes his own neighborhood	
Mathematics	Names a few numbers	Counts a few numbers	Counts to 10
	Lives in the present	Deals with the past and the future	Thinks of uses of numbers
			Uses a wider span of time in planning

Language Development	Learns sounds used in words	Increases his command of oral sounds	Has mastered most word sounds
	Uses simple sentences	Uses compound sentences	Prints own name
	Learns new words	Increases his vocabulary	Uses adverbial clauses
			Increases his vocabulary
Stories	Like short picture stories	Likes realistic picture stories (e.g., about home)	Likes realistic and imaginative stories with little drama and happy ending
	Does short pantomimes with adult	Pantomimes a simple story told by adult	Dramatizes simple stories
Art	Likes easel painting	Likes to use a brush or other tool	Makes designs and realistic portrayals
	Scribbles with crayons	Paints and draws with some design	
	Enjoys several art media	Enjoys a variety of media and several art tools	
Music	Likes music	Creates dance movements to music	Follows simple dance suggestions
	Distinguishes “indoors” from “outdoors” voice	Enjoys action stories to music	Tells high from low, soft from loud, fast music from slow
		Learns short songs by rote	Learns songs by rote
			Creates song phrases
Relating to Others	Plays parallel to others	Plays with others or by himself	Increases his cooperative play
		Does dramatic play with others	Is more sensitive to the needs of others
		Expresses sympathy	
		Finds his own emotional outlet	