

Age 3

By the age of three, most children:

- Help with/complete most dressing and undressing
- Copy adults and friends
- Show affection
- Show a wide range of emotions
- Separate easily from mom and dad
- Follow simple directions
- Can name most familiar things
- Say first name and age
- Say words like “I”, “me”, “we”, and “you” and some plurals (cars, dogs, cats)
- Talk well enough for strangers to understand most of the time
- Can work toys with buttons, levers and moving parts
- Play make-believe with dolls, animals and people
- Do puzzles with three or four pieces
- Understand what “two” means
- Copy a circle with a pencil or crayon
- Turn book pages one at a time (board books)
- Build towers of more than six blocks
- Point to body parts
- Climb well
- Run easily
- Pedal a tricycle (3-wheel bike)

Age 4

By the age of four, most children:

- Are more and more creative with make-believe play
- Seek to play with other children
- Talk about what they like and what they are interested in
- Know some basic rules of grammar, such as correctly using “he” and “she”
- Sing a song or say a poem from memory such as the “Itsy Bitsy Spider” or the “Wheels on the Bus”
- Tell stories
- Ask “how” and “why” questions
- Can say first and last name
- Name things (colors, shapes)

Age 5

- Want to be like friends
- Like to sing, dance and act
- Show concern and sympathy for others
- Are aware of gender
- Speak very clearly
- Tell a simple story using full sentences
- Use future tense; for example, “Grandma will be here.”
- Count 10 or more objects
- Can draw a person with at least six body parts
- Can print some letters or numbers
- Copy a triangle and other geometric shapes
- Hop and may be able to skip
- Can do a somersault
- Use a fork and spoon and sometimes a table knife
- Can use the toilet on their own