

Fours and Fives



Welcome to the cheery world of four and five year olds! Energetic and expecting life to be fair describe us. Our friends are important to us and we like to go to each other's houses. We love to imagine and pretend. We're often curious and can be heard asking, "How?" "What?" and "Why?" Join us in our journey and see how we do life!

Thought You'd Like to Know



- My coordination and small muscles are developing. I can throw a ball and catch a bounced ball.
- I use any space to run, hop, jump, skip and move around.
- I'm learning to tie my shoelaces and button/zip my clothes.
- I start to lose my baby teeth.
- I have an attention span of about five minutes—or longer if I love what I am doing.
- Using scissors, I cut easier when I have a bold line to follow. I can color in the lines.
- I'm able to copy letters and numbers and print my name in capital letters.



- Some animals, loud noises and darkness often scare me.
- Adult attention and words of praise for a job I have accomplished build my self-esteem. When I'm first learning, I don't always get it right.
- I'm more flexible about sudden changes in my routine.
- I can be unpredictable.

"When children pretend, they aren't limited to the way things are in the real world."

Fred Rogers

"When I approach a child, he inspires in me two sentiments: tenderness for what he is, and respect for what he may become."

Louis Pasteur



- My family is most important to me.
- I like to play with other children and sometimes I can be very bossy and/or organize how we should play.
- Fairness is very important to me and I let people know when I think something is not fair.
- I'm loyal to my "best" friends even though we argue at times. I like being with my friends at my house or theirs.
- I can take turns and share with others.
- I need to know my limits. Give me clear and consistent rules. Tell me what the consequences are for breaking the rules. Say what you mean and do what you say. This helps me feel secure. I can sense when you will not follow through based on our experiences together.
- My discussions with others can be quite lengthy and enjoyable.



- I talk in five- to eight-word sentences and know about 5000 words.
- I am able to remember stories and repeat them, and I also enjoy creating and telling stories.
- I sort objects by size, from shortest to tallest.
- I'm aware that books are read from left to right.
- I ask lots of questions, but I don't always wait for an answer.
- I'm curious about many things. I'm beginning to see the difference between fantasy and reality.
- I like to figure out problems for myself but if I think they are too hard, I often get frustrated or quit.
- I understand the concepts of yesterday, today and tomorrow, but I don't always have a sense of how long an hour can be.
- I take things you say literally.
- I can follow three-step commands: brush teeth; put on PJs; get in bed.
- I'm beginning to tell and understand jokes. I like to make up my own knock-knock jokes.
- I like to explore and try new things. I learn best when you show, tell and let me experience it for myself.
- I like rules. They give me directions.

- Listen to my questions, give honest answers and assure me of God's love.
- I am learning that praying means talking to God and I can pray to God anytime, anywhere, about anything.
- I can learn that God wants us to obey him and my parents.
- I am beginning to ask questions about God.
- I am learning that God made me special.
- I can show God's love by doing kind things for others.
- I can learn the Bible is true and that it teaches us about God and Jesus.
- I am understanding that Jesus loves everyone and he wants us to love him and love others.
- I can identify right from wrong, but I still need reminders to make the right choices.

"Moral intelligence means how we behave. It's moral behavior tested by life, lived out in the course of our everyday experience. We live out what we presumably want taught to our children. They are taking constant notice and measuring us not by what we say but what we do."

Robert Coles

Spending Time Together

- I like interactive play. Let me choose what we pretend to do or be.
- Praise something about me every day.
- I like to work together on projects of varying difficulty.
- Playing outdoor and indoor games are some of my favorite things to do.
- Listen to me as I talk about my family, my pets and things I have recently experienced.

Favorite Activities: walking; running; drawing; coloring; painting; marching; pretending/role playing; doing simple puzzles and board games; playing dress up and house; playing with Playdough, plastic ball and bat, dress-up clothes, puppets, cars; asking questions; making friends; lacing my shoes; buttoning my coat; playing catch, ring toss, Duck, Duck Goose, Red Light-Green Light; having a break time; riding a tricycle; jumping rope; using rhythm instruments, flannel board, clay, construction paper, chalk, markers, crayons, glue, blunt scissors; listening to stories on tape, poems, CDs of children's songs, folk songs and ethnic music.

What I Really Need

- Places and people that provide safety, security and trust
- Give me consistent provision and love.
- Give me opportunities and experiences to discover what I am capable of doing myself.
- Share your faith stories with me. They help me form and shape my beliefs, values and behaviors.
- Model and teach me to give, save and spend money in a God-honoring way.
- Give me chores. They let me know that I have something to contribute and am part of the family. They teach me responsibility and give me skills for a lifetime.

Key People In My Life

- Parents
- Siblings
- Extended family
- Grandparents
- Caregivers

Note: The development and behavior of four and five year olds will vary based on physical maturity, culture, environment, education, and the amount of experiences and interactions with adults and other children.


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