

# YOUR FOUR YEAR OLD



Now and in the next few months, your child will:

- ♥ Use the toilet appropriately
- ♥ Put together a seven-piece puzzle
- ♥ Use scissors to cut on a line
- ♥ Jump, run, throw and climb using good balance
- ♥ Play cooperatively with other children at times
- ♥ Repeat simple nursery rhymes
- ♥ Enjoy spending time on detail work
- ♥ Understand taking turns
- ♥ Tell first and last name
- ♥ Like books with action and humor
- ♥ Move rapidly from one activity to another
- ♥ Exaggerate and brag to others
- ♥ May use swear words and “bathroom words”
- ♥ Want to help and enjoy routines



## TOYS OF INTEREST

- ♥ Dominoes
- ♥ Simple card games
- ♥ Books
- ♥ Music and rhythm instruments
- ♥ Easy-care pets
- ♥ Wheeled toys of all kinds

## PARENTING HINTS

- ♥ Four-year-olds are enthusiastic, boastful, noisy, expansive, bold, daring and silly. Monsters and superheroes are likely to be high on their list of interests. Make room for all of this energy.
- ♥ Help your child learn about appropriately expressing anger. She has the vocabulary so you can help by telling her to say "That makes me mad!" rather than hitting.
- ♥ He will spend most of his time playing with other children but not for long periods. Friendships are highly unstable. Whoever he plays with is his friend.
- ♥ This creative time in her life can be used for personal story telling. Help her write or record her stories on video.
- ♥ His achievements are very important to him. He will repeat them for anyone because he loves the praise. His sense of accomplishment is great but his need for success is even greater. Plan for him to succeed by giving him things he can accomplish. Have hooks so he can put up his own clothes, shelves that he can reach and chores he can complete. You are helping him to feel competent.
- ♥ Don't let her interest in letters and reading convince you that she is ready to be taught; she still is at a time when fun and experience are the ways to prepare her for school. Example and humor are great ways to change behavior.



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is beginning to seem very grown-up and it may tempt you to try to rush her. "Just as it is developmentally important that children crawl before they walk (and do not skip steps), so it is important that children not be prematurely awakened from the dreamy, imaginative world of early childhood before the natural time for this, around six or seven."

*Rahima Baldwin, You Are Your Child's First Teacher*

**Y**our child looks to you to know the way. Your importance as your child's first teacher remains there daily.



## FIRST TEACHER DEVELOPMENTAL CARDS

Expectations for our children can be based on our experience or inexperience, our values, our neighbors, and our own unmet needs. Make sure your expectations are appropriate and that they change to meet your child's unique needs.

Children need you to be there for them, to understand what they are going through, to know where they are headed, and to help them when they need extra help.