

YOUR FOUR AND A HALF YEAR OLD



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

- ♥ Hop on one foot
- ♥ Draw a face
- ♥ Know colors
- ♥ Dress self with little help
- ♥ Have greater skill with fingers so she can play games that have little pieces
- ♥ Be very boastful
- ♥ Talk to other children more than to adults
- ♥ Be able to play at one task for longer periods of time
- ♥ Increase his ability to be self-motivated
- ♥ Like tricking you by hiding and playing games
- ♥ Have difficulty with nap time but may still need rest
- ♥ Understand "good" and "bad"
- ♥ Need considerable praise

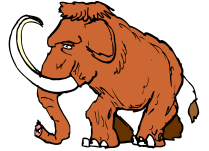


TOYS OF INTEREST

- ♥ Climbing equipment
- ♥ Plastic bats and balls
- ♥ Crayons, markers, paints, paper
- ♥ Simple board games (Sorry, Chutes and Ladders)
- ♥ Small garden plot with tools
- ♥ Flashlights, magnets and kites
- ♥ Sand toys
- ♥ Trucks, cars, wagons

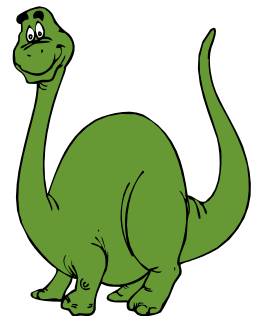
PARENTING HINTS

- ♥ As at all stages, reading is important. It isn't just to teach her words and how to read, it is also to teach her to be a quiet listener.
- ♥ Encourage him to do things on his own. In a brief time he will be expected to be able to use the bathroom and put on his coat by himself. Be sure to start now.
- ♥ The best motivator at this age is success.
- ♥ This is a period of slightly greater fear toward those in authority. She may need extra help in feeling good about her efforts. Hug her and praise her. Her successes help her feel worthwhile. Her view of herself is constantly changing. You help her by loving and accepting her.
- ♥ His ability to tell the difference between a fantasy and a lie is not good and, like most things, it will get better later.
- ♥ Make sure your child is comfortable being away from you. Encourage her independence to help her be ready for school.
- ♥ This can be a very demanding period. It takes a lot of energy to parent at every stage and may take even more right now. Take a break or go out with your partner. Be sure to put your child to bed early both for her sake and for yours. You need time alone or with your partner.



Your Four and A Half Year Old
has "the potential for liking himself. He learns to see himself as the important people around him do. He builds his self-picture from the words, body language, attitudes, and judgements of others. He judges himself according to his own observation of himself in comparison with others and others' responses to him. High self-esteem comes from positive experiences with life and love."
Dorothy Corkille Briggs, Your Child's Self-Esteem

We do not believe that parenting has become extinct. You are still your child's first and most important teacher.



FIRST TEACHER DEVELOPMENTAL CARDS

The book, *Your Child's Self-Esteem*, discusses your child's readiness for a new phase because she has completed the tasks of the last stages. Your child's "growth follows a logical plan; completing each step successfully allows your child to feel competent and worthwhile."

When you understand what to reasonably expect, you will worry less and you will help her feel good about herself.