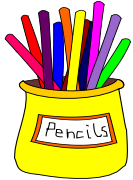


YOUR FIVE YEAR OLD



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

- ♥ Draw a person with body and legs
- ♥ Name four colors and count 10 objects
- ♥ Skip
- ♥ Know some or all of the days of the week
- ♥ Try to tie shoes and buttons and zips jacket
- ♥ Build a simple structure with blocks or cubes
- ♥ Have a clear hand preference for eating, throwing, etc.
- ♥ Follow two and three part directions (Go upstairs, get me a diaper, and bring it here.)
- ♥ Feed and dress himself
- ♥ Play cooperatively regularly
- ♥ Talk about ideas
- ♥ Try to color within the lines
- ♥ Be eager to help

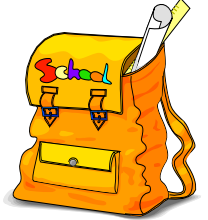


TOYS OF INTEREST

- ♥ Books about animals in people's roles
- ♥ Roller skates ♥ Bicycles ♥ Money, real or pretend ♥ Real office machines-calculators
- ♥ Blankets and tables for tents

PARENTING HINTS

- ♥ Fives begin to become very self-centered but bare with her. Try not to cause her to feel guilty because she needs to go through this period before she can be more involved with others.
- ♥ Your five year old has become calmer. Maybe that is why kindergarten begins at this age.
- ♥ At this age, he begins to form lasting friendships usually with children he thinks are most like him.
- ♥ Her fears are changing. No longer is she fearful of the dark but now more likely of the monsters in the dark.
- ♥ Calendar activities work now because he has more understanding of time and space.
- ♥ You may see an interest in science as your child goes into a more factual period. Bugs, stars, electricity take on new meaning for her.
- ♥ Don't let planning for kindergarten lessen the fun of this age. Letters, writing and numbers will all come with time. Experiences are what he still needs.
- ♥ Despite her age she will still enjoy being home with you.
- ♥ Help him look forward to school by visiting a kindergarten class or attending events at the school. Be excited with and for him as he begins this exciting adventure.



Your Five Year Old
is ready for the big world and you are likely to be reflecting on your first five years as her parent. Your possible concerns about how you handled an issue or your frustrations about child-rearing can be put aside. It is time "to look toward the future. We should be excited about being able to change totally for the benefit of tomorrow ... No one will ever be perfect or always right ... All of life is a learning experience, and it can be beautiful."
~ Tine Thevenin, Author

Some teachers can never be replaced. You will always be your child's first and most important teacher.



FIRST TEACHER DEVELOPMENTAL CARDS

Certainly, even after your child enters kindergarten, she and all of us will continue to go through specific developmental stages. Even at this time in your child's life, she needs your continued support and to feel the love and security from you, her parent. We know that children who have parents who are involved in school do better.