

Children will grow at different rates, these skills may develop this year

Communication Skills

- Understands simple “who, what, where” questions
- Understands simple prepositions (under, on top, behind, in front)
- Understands number concepts (the rest, all, two)
- Asks “what” questions frequently
- Sentence length 3-4 words
- Can tell a simple story or relate idea to someone

Fine Motor Skills

- Builds a tower using 6 blocks
- Screws or unscrews a jar lid or turns door handle
- Buttons and unbuttons large buttons
- Completes puzzles with 3-4 pieces

Gross Motor Skills

- Pedals a tricycle
- Walks up/down stairs alternating feet
- Walks backwards
- Runs, hops and stands on one foot

Personal Social Skills

- Takes turns while playing-even if they don't like to
- Shows concern for crying friend without prompting
- Understands the idea of “mine” and “his or hers”
- Child may begin to show fears as experiences in the world increase
- May be potty trained, with day time control achieved before night time

Problem Solving Skills

- Understands what “two” means
- Starts to show understanding of terms morning, night and days of the week
- Names eight colors
- Can count 1-10 and starts to count groups of things

Communication Activities

- Talk about pictures in books, ask questions about the story, talk about what happened 1st, 2nd, 3rd, last
- Use cards or household items to sort (clothes, animals, dishes, etc.)
- Play the “why” game: “Why do we ...” (eat, wear shoes, brush our teeth, etc.)
- Give your child directions with prepositions (“Put the bear on the chair; Put the hat on my head”)
- Play “dress up” with old clothing and talk about what you are doing

Fine Motor Activities

- Finger paint with shaving cream on shower/tub wall or on a large piece of paper adding food coloring.
- Use household utensils like tongs and tweezers to pick up objects
- Provide scissors and old magazines to practice cutting, draw straight and curvy lines for child to cut
- Trace around simple objects, use cups and blocks of various sizes

Gross Motor Activities

- Dance around the house playing different types of music, point out music that is fast and slow
- Show your child how to move like an elephant, bear, crab, rabbit, let child be the leader
- Use a paper plate to hit a balloon seeing how long child can keep in the air, count how many times child hits the balloon

Personal Social and Problem Solving Activities

- Have your child set the table each night at dinner, placing utensils at each place to learn one-to-one correspondence
- Put an old blanket over a table and have a “picnic” or “campout”, add flashlights for fun
- Introduce simple board games like Memory and Candy Land