

A Few Characteristics of 4 to 6-Year-Old Children

By Stephanie Riley and Barbara Bennett

4 Year-Old

In tune with nature
Loves to go on excursions
Very active – he needs lots of gross motor activities like running, jumping, hopping or climbing
Does not like to sit for long periods of time
Has lots of energy
Wild, fanciful imagination
Expands on projects – doesn't like to replicate models
Very verbal
May use “potty” language
Friends are important
Loves silly songs

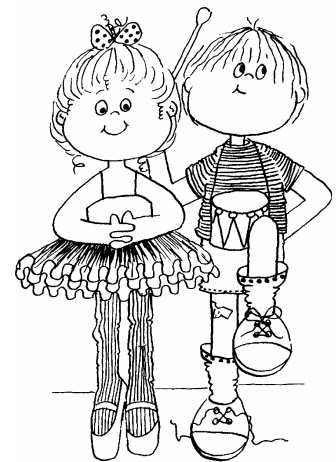


4 ½ Year-Old

Your child is easily frightened and therefore likes super heroes
Loves “monsters”
Sharks and dinosaurs are interesting
Lots of questions about death
Worried and highly frustrated
Many of the same characteristics of a four year old

5 Year-Old

Very literal and practical; does exactly what you ask
Wants to do things right
Likes group experiences (i.e., group games, murals, etc.)
Will need to be reassured by teacher
Morals are forming – great sense of right and wrong
Motor development is good
Dramatic play is practical (real-life rather than fanciful)
Can count to 10 and can count objects one by one
Writes first name in capital letters
Can draw a diagonal stroke



5 ½ Year-Old

Often clumsy
Often reverses a large amount of numbers and letters
Highs and lows emotionally
Tongue swings back and forth under stress
Loves you or hates you

5 ½ Year-Old

High energy/extreme tiredness

Using a pencil and paper, and reading are difficult if going through spatial disequilibrium

6 Year-Old

Sloppy work

High energy – needs to run

Chews on everything in sight because cutting molars

Likes teacher – wants teacher to be stable person – doesn't like substitutes

Borrows without returning

Pocketfuls of collections

Lots of questions about God

Questions about teacher and where he/she lives

Still reverses some numbers and letters

Uses capitals and lower case together – not always in correct order

Between 6 and 6 1/2, most want to read

