

## 37 - 48 Months

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Preschoolers are becoming their own person and standing up for what they want. They show more self-esteem, confidence, optimism and enjoyment of daily activities. He will have endless questions about how things work and why things happen. Language development is still on the fast track and most three-year olds will have a vocabulary of over 700 words. Three-year olds are better at understanding and following simple rules and controlling their impulses. Four-year olds are more even-tempered and cooperative with parents though they still stand up for what they want. His imagination is developing with make-believe play and he enjoys playing out situations that are familiar in his life.

A preschooler will:

- **Enjoy playing with other children.**  
He is socializing well and is showing improved skills in turn-taking, sharing, and co-operating.
- **Greet familiar adults.**  
He will also be appropriately using words such “please” and “thank you”.
- **Experience a broad range of feelings.**  
Preschoolers are learning and experiencing a broader range of emotions such as jealousy, excitement, fear, happiness, and anger.
- **Have the skills to express anger verbally.**  
A preschooler near the end of this stage will use a vocabulary of approximately 900 words, including five-word sentences, which allows for him to be able to express his anger more specifically with words rather than physically.
- **Be an accomplished negotiator.**  
With increased vocabulary, a preschooler will negotiate and try to make things go his way.
- **Become less egocentric.**  
He will be more able to understand feelings and point of view of others, for example, showing empathy for a friend who is upset. Becoming less self-centered is helping him feel less upset with limits and discipline.