

## 49 - 60 Months

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A preschooler is a pretty capable person by now. A four-year old is full of energy, her imagination is developing with make-believe play and she enjoys playing out situations that are familiar in her life. By year five, she is embracing life fully. She is learning to cope with frustration and to understand rules. With the emergence of a conscience, she adopts rules, accepting them as her own. She is much better at taking turns and playing cooperatively, as well as planning and problem solving with others. She can now speak almost like an adult, using correct grammar 90% of the time, making navigating social-emotional situations more easily than previously.

A preschooler will:

- **Play games with simple rules.**  
While she began with an egocentric view, she is learning that rules are important socially. Games like Follow the Leader, Red Rover, Simon Says, and soccer do not work if nobody is following the rules. She is consequently learning that life also has rules (laws) that help society function productively.
- **Enjoy dramatic play with other children.**  
She loves using her imagination to play pretend with other children. This includes elements of imitative play and make-believe play. It requires verbal interaction between two or more children. Because it is interactive, it requires planning.
- **Begin to grasp the concept of sharing.**  
She is starting to understand why sharing is important. There is an increased awareness of other people's minds, allowing her to negotiate, resolve conflict, and monitor the emotional state of a group.
- **Experience self-esteem.**  
She will feel good about herself and take pride in her accomplishments.
- **Concentrates and works alone for up to 20-30 minutes.**  
Her attention span is growing, allowing her to accomplish tasks she has never accomplished before.
- **Keep going on a difficult task for longer periods.**  
Her ability to continue trying while working on a difficult task is expanding, and while she may need some guidance and help to accomplish the task, she is sometimes able to problem solve and accomplish the task independently.