

# How I Learn

## Milestones of

# Child Development

## For Fours, Fives, Sixes, and Sevens



# Young Children:

Develop in four ways:

- **Physically**
  - Become more aware of what they can do physically with their bodies.
- **Intellectually**
  - Develop thinking and language skills.
- **Emotionally**
  - Become more sensitive to their parents' and friends' feelings as well as their own.
- **Socially**
  - Learn to make friends, play, and love.

Also are:

- Hardly ever quiet
  - Knocking over blocks, singing loudly, or laughing hysterically
- In need of praise



# Fours

*"Four-year-olds are energetic and imaginative. They often learn new words quickly and use them in chatting with others, telling jokes, and sharing wild stories."*

- **Physical**
  - Hops, skips, turns sharp corners, runs, rolls, and throws balls
- **Intellectual**
  - Enjoys dramatic play
  - Speaks up to 6,000 words
  - Takes interest in written and spoken language
- **Emotional**
  - Takes interest in rules
  - Has a creative imagination sometimes leading to fears
  - Finds differences and similarities in people curious
- **Social**
  - Enjoys being silly
  - Starts to grasp sharing

*Ohio State University Extension, 2002*



# Fives

*"Cheerful, energetic, and enthusiastic are words that may describe the five-year-olds in your care. Fives enjoy planning and discussing who will do what. A 'best friend' is very important but hard to keep as social skills are not well developed yet."*

- **Physical**
  - Handles most dressing
  - Attempts all kinds of physical feats
- **Intellectual**
  - Engages in activities with a result or end product in mind
  - Enjoys repeating stories, poems, and songs, as well as acting out plays or stories
- **Emotional**
  - Proud of possessions
  - Takes responsibility seriously
- **Social**
  - Becomes competitive
  - Wants to please adults

*Iowa State University Extension, 2004*

# Sixes

*"Sixes are ready for a steady pace of growing and learning, one in which real life tasks and activities overtake pretend and fantasy."*

- **Physical**
  - Enjoys testing muscle strength and skills
  - Enjoys copying designs and shapes, letters and numbers
- **Intellectual**
  - Enjoys planning and building
  - Increases problem-solving ability
- **Emotional**
  - Places importance on being with friends
  - Begins to see things from another child's point of view but is still very self-centered
- **Social**
  - May have a "best" friend
  - Wants to play more with gender-similar friends

*Iowa State University Extension, 2004*

# Sevens

*"Seven-year-olds are far more interested in projects or defined games – activities that they view as 'real'."*

- **Physical**
  - Ties shoelaces
- **Intellectual**
  - Interested in doing things correctly
  - Views life in absolutes
- **Emotional**
  - Wants to spend a lot of time with friends
  - Expects to have accomplishments acknowledged
- **Social**
  - Enjoys being around young children

*First Grade Success, 2005*

