

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

