

Profile of a typical 4 year old in terms of development

This development profile outlines the level of development that could reasonably be expected of a typical 4 year old child. It is important to remember though, that all children are different. Some children will be more advanced in some areas of development and less advanced in others. This profile is a general reference guide only.

Social and emotional development

- Beginning to take turns (sharing)
- Knows you (parent) will come back if you leave for a short period of time
- Assists to pack away (toys, games etc) after use
- Enjoys praise from adults
- Wants to please key adults in his/her life
- Expresses affection
- Beginning to choose friends to play with
- Likes games with simple rules
- Starting to test adult limits and boundaries
- Asks for help when needed
- Will play alone for 20-30 minutes at a time
- Toilet training – usually stays dry at night
- Plays cooperatively with others
- Basic understanding of social justice

Cognitive Development

- Understanding another's point of view
- Longer attention span
- Beginning to sort and classify information
- Observant – notices details
- Thinking about problems
- Asks "Why?"
- Likes books
- Recognising names, some shapes
- Can remember some items in a picture or group of objects
- Can identify sounds
- Imitates someone drawing
- Recognizes and names colours
- Recognises own name in print
- May begin basics of writing



Physical Development

- Stand on one leg for up to 10 seconds
- Walk on a balance beam
- Run smoothly and can negotiate curves and bends
- Stand on tip toes
- Likes jumping and hopping
- Climb a short ladder or tree
- Walking backwards
- Catch a ball in arms
- Enjoys movement and dance, skipping to music
- Dresses without help
- Threads bead
- Enjoys puzzles
- Manipulate paste brushes, scissors, pencils and crayons
- Pincer grip developing
- Jump backwards
- Can walk downstairs using alternate feet
- Can use eating utensils
- Hop on one foot up to 5 times
- Use scissors to cut around shapes
- Hold scissors correctly
- Do a somersault

Creative and communicative development

- Knows prepositions
- Use many words (approx vocabulary of 1500 words)
- Makes most sounds
- Use accurate grammar when speaking
- Explores the use of sound and enjoys making sounds with different objects
- Verbalise art work
- Repeat rhymes, songs and dances and will likely have favourite ones
- Tell the opposite of a word
- Identify rhyming words
- Draw a person and representative drawings
- Able to use 5 words in a sentence

