

THE FOUR YEAR OLD

- **Expansive...anything is possible**
- **Egocentric**
- **Silly, can be uproarious**
- **Strong emotions, feelings change rapidly**
- **Strong drive to socialize...to learn about other children**
- **Interested in other children, not in adults**
- **Oppositional behavior is glorified**
- **Fantasy and reality not clearly separated**
- **Imaginative play is paramount**
- **Curiosity and creativity drive learning**
- **Does not yet think logically**
- **Loves to start projects...but not necessarily to finish them**
- **Rapid, colorful language**
- **Loves to talk...language directs their action**
- **Exuberant gross motor play**
- **Active..."out-of-bounds" exploration**
- **Adult guidance needed for safety**
- **Successful explorations create a healthy sense of initiative**
- **Rapidly moving attention**
- **Visually far-oriented, constantly scanning the horizon**
- **Close-in work difficult**
- **Fine motor coordination developing slowly**
- **Unsure pencil grip**
- **Process not product oriented**

"FOURS CAN"... LIST

From 48 to 54 months, some things Fours can do are:

- stand on one foot for ten seconds
- name three shapes
- use many words (more than 1500)
- remember some things seen in a picture or in a group of objects
- ask lots of questions
- test adult limits frequently
- enjoy playing with other children more than playing alone
- walk on a balance beam
- ask for help when needed
- tell what their artwork is
- repeat rhymes, songs, or dances
- get dressed without much help
- jump backward
- try to imitate someone who draws a square
- draw a person with three parts
- know some prepositions, such as *in front of*, *under*, *behind*, or *on top of*
- walk downstairs, alternating feet
- recognize some colors
- catch a bounced ball
- play alone for 20-30 minutes
- know the name of a penny, nickel, dime
- fasten buttons quite well
- eat well with fork, cut easy foods with knife
- usually stay dry through the night
- jump over things
- recognize own name in print

"FOURS CAN"... LIST cont.

From 54 to 60 months, some things Fours can do are:

- hop on one foot at least five times
- cut out a big circle
- tell you what some words mean
- brush teeth quite well
- draw a person with six parts
- ask permission to use things that belong to others
- do well in small groups of three or four
- lace shoes
- show correct number of objects, up to five
- taunt others by calling names
- play cooperatively in small groups often
- say "I'm sorry" to others
- do a somersault
- behave well in public most of time
- cut and paste simple shapes
- say when a sound is loud or soft
- say whether two words rhyme
- usually manage all toileting skills alone
- use four or five words in a sentence
- count to ten
- recognize a few printed words
- tell on others who do naughty things
- jump over knee-high obstacles with both feet together
- print own name but not clearly
- print a few capital letters