

Ages & Stages of Development for Preschool and Early Elementary Children

Skill	Preschool	Elementary
Physical Development	Talks in simple sentences; runs, climbs, moves often. Short attention span.	Talks clearly; runs, skips, jumps, can sit still for stories, re-tell the story, ask questions, better focus.
Mental and Intellectual Development	Actions based on reflexes. Beginning to separate self from others. Imitates. Likes concrete activities and examples.	Beginning to differentiate real from imaginary. Learns best with concrete examples. Recalls, invents, carries on complex conversations.
Interpersonal relationships	May be shy, depends on parents or adults. Beginning to develop relational skills through group experience. Feelings are shared, but not necessarily appropriately. Parallel play.	Develops relational skill with peers through group experiences. Shows empathy, can express and talk about feelings. Plays cooperatively.
Values and Ethics	Usually follows rules for right and wrong as established by adults.	Understands the significance of intention. Begins to see consequences of actions. Obeys to avoid consequences.
Family	May not see parents as separate from self.	Sees self as separate, but family as intertwined with self.
Needs of Age	Timely responses to needs in order to develop.	Safe environment, freedom with boundaries.
Fine Motor	Minimal fine motor skills for drawing, may be able to snip with scissors, paste. At 3, can draw lines, imitate circles, holds crayon with fist. Dominant hand not established.	Uses tools like scissors and pencils. Figures are representational, can follow short sequential steps. By 5, holds crayon in pincer grasp, can cut on lines, and stay within lines for coloring.
Hearing and Speech	3-4 word sentences. Speech and articulation may vary greatly among children.	Asks many questions at age 4. Fluent speech and articulation. Can tell fanciful stories, relay details from a story in order.
Music	Recognizes favorite short songs, simple tunes. Loves hand motions. Music can have a calming effect.	Can remember and sing songs, usually can carry a tune. Loves repetition of favorite songs especially if they have hand motions.

Sources: 1) Development Through the Lifespan. Methodist Church. General Board of Discipleship. 2008.

<http://www.gbod.org/minister-to-people/developmental-topics/resource/development-through-the-life-span>

2) Fine Motor Development 0-6 Years, <http://www.skillbuildersonline.com> 2002.

3) Silberg, Jackie. The Importance of Music for Children

<http://www.barnesandnoble.com/u/jackie-silberg-importance-of-music/379002449/>