

What Should I Expect From My Five-year-old?

Physical Development:

- First permanent teeth begin to erupt
- Averages 10-11 hours sleep each night, naps needed only occasionally
- Dreams and nightmares are common

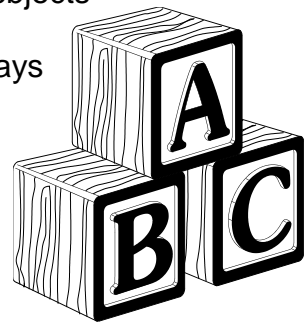
Language:

- Approximate vocabulary of 2100-2200 or more words
- Questions asked address meaning and purpose
- Can carry on a conversation with few sound errors
- Speaks in 6-8 word sentences
- Enjoys being read to and may act out the story later
- Sentences are composed of all parts of speech, including noun, verb, preposition, adjective, adverb, etc.
- When asked, he can give his own name, age, birthday, sex, and address
- Loves to sing jingles, chants, and rhymes
- Asks questions using Who? What? When? Why?
- Asks meaning to unfamiliar words



Learning and Problem Solving:

- Stays with an activity for 10-15 minutes or more if interesting to him
- Knows left and right
- Counts 10 objects
- Identifies more than 8 colors
- From memory, identifies missing objects from a group of three objects
- Understands past and present
- Has interest in finishing an activity that is spread over several days
- Groups objects into food, animals, or toys
- Identifies coins by name
- Copies block patterns, using no more than 10 blocks



Motor:

- Draws a person with head, arms, legs, and trunk
- Draws a house with doors, roof, chimney, and windows
- Climbs a ladder
- Threads large needle independently and sews several stitches
- Hops forward 10 feet on one foot
- Can drop kick a ball
- Prints capital letters, simple words, and numerals
- Tries to skate, falls may occur often
- Holds a pencil appropriately
- Walks a balance board the full length without falling off
- Copies a diamond, square, triangle
- Prints own name
- Can color in the lines with crayons



Self-Help:

- Dresses and undresses self, including small size buttons and snaps
- Uses all eating utensils properly
- Brushes and combs own hair
- Brushes own teeth, but may need an adult's inspection of his teeth
- Can wipe nose, but may be an incomplete job
- Sleeps in own bed, but some children may fear the dark
- Gets self ready for bed
- Goes to toilet alone without mentioning it to an adult
- Learns to tie shoelaces
- Understands need for tidiness, but needs frequent reminders

Social:

- May have imaginary friends
- Very attached to home and family, but will adventure out to some extent
- Shows sympathy to others
- Enjoys assisting with household chores and routines and is helpful
- May be rigid about the "right" and "wrong" way to do things
- Plays well with other children
- Protective of younger children and animals
- Displays a sense of humor



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