



## Four Years Old

With the beginning of a new year, your child will be discovering and learning new skills, as well as refining past accomplishments. The following descriptives of the development of a four year old will give you an idea of what to look for during this year. The programs at Encompass Early Education and Care, Inc. provide growth, development and reinforcement of these behaviors, skills and concepts.

Each child is unique and develops at his/her own pace; however, the environment and the ability of each caretaker to incorporate these factors into daily experiences that are developmentally appropriate, challenging, fun, and nurturing are key to development. We are grateful to have the opportunity to celebrate this year and your child's accomplishments with you.



### Mission Statement

Encompass Early Education and Care, Inc. is a not-for-profit organization providing education and care for children and support for families with a commitment to compassion, quality and advocacy.

### Physical Development

- hops forward on one foot and balances easily on either foot and can gallop
- works a 10 piece puzzle
- cuts along line with scissors
- copies a few letters with some accuracy
- uses a knife for cutting food
- can lace shoes
- draws with purpose and design
- manipulates small pieces to make designs

### Social/Emotional Development

- enjoys cooperative group play
- engages in "role playing" frequently
- enthusiastic, adventurous and eager to please
- interested in monsters, dinosaurs and super heroes
- high level of imagination
- polite, outgoing and sometimes boastful
- developing jealousy of other children
- beginning to exclude specific children from games (this varies daily)
- needs outlet for aggressive behaviors

### Communication/Language Development

- beginning to negotiate with peers
- uses name calling to feel powerful
- most of language now directed to other children
- maintains 20-30 minute conversation
- vocabulary increasing dramatically as language becomes exaggerated with "wild" terms -enormous, colossal
- tells "secrets" to friends
- enjoys stories with blanks they get to fill in

### Thinking/Intellectual Development

- growing interest in letters (of their names) and numbers
- enjoys more complex and smaller pictures in books
- able to draw a picture and tell a story about it
- likes hearing a story told and imagining it
- enjoys lotto games, matching, and sorting
- understands concepts of outer space
- classifies objects with 2 or 3 criteria i.e. "the box with 4 holes"
- developing a conscience
- beginning to use "yesterday" and "tomorrow" in conversation