

	3-Year-Olds	4-Year-Olds	5-Year-Olds	6-Year-Olds
<b>Motor development: Gross motor skills</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>walks with an agile, almost adult style</li> <li>runs around obstacles</li> <li>catches large balls and throws overhead</li> <li>climbs ladders; uses slide independently</li> <li>rides a tricycle</li> <li>alternates feet when climbing stairs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>running is more controlled; can start, stop, and turn</li> <li>turns somersaults; hops on one foot; gallops</li> <li>can easily catch, throw, and bounce a ball</li> <li>can brush teeth, comb hair, wash, and dress with little assistance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>runs in an adult manner</li> <li>walks on tiptoe, broad jumps</li> <li>walks on a balance beam</li> <li>skates and jumps rope</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>may still be somewhat uncoordinated and gawky</li> <li>able to learn to ride a bicycle</li> <li><b>can move in time with music or a beat</b></li> </ul>
<b>Motor development: Fine motor skills</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>assembles simple puzzles</li> <li>manipulates clay, finger paints</li> <li>copies simple shapes, such as a cross or circle</li> <li>stacks blocks up to nine high</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>copies crosses and squares</li> <li>prints some letters</li> <li>uses table utensils skillfully</li> <li>cuts on a line</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>hand preference is established</b></li> <li>laces (but cannot tie) shoes</li> <li><b>grasps pencil like an adult</b></li> <li>colors within lines</li> <li>cuts and pastes simple shapes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>can get dressed completely by himself, and usually tie shoelaces</li> <li>cuts square, triangle, circle, and simple pictures with scissors</li> <li>uses a knife to spread food items (jelly, peanut butter, mayo etc.), uses a dull knife to cut soft foods</li> <li>able to draw and copy a diagonal line</li> <li>uses a "tripod grasp" on writing utensils (thumb &amp; tips of 1st two fingers) and <b>uses fingers</b> only to write/draw/color</li> </ul>
<b>Language and thinking development</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>understands most of what is said and 75% of speech is understandable</li> <li>speaks in complete sentences of 3-5 words</li> <li>matches pictures to objects</li> <li><b>learns by doing and through the senses</b></li> <li>understands concepts of "now," "soon," and "later"</li> <li>begins to recognize cause-and-effect relationships</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>uses a 1,500-word vocabulary</li> <li>understands, mostly, the difference between fantasy and reality</li> <li><b>understands number and space concepts — more, less, bigger, in, under, behind</b></li> <li>thinks literally; starting to develop logical thinking</li> <li>begins to grasp that pictures and symbols can represent real objects</li> <li><b>starts to recognize patterns among objects — round things, soft things, animals</b></li> <li>grasps the concepts of past, present, and future but does not understand the duration of time</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>speaks fluently; correctly uses plurals, pronouns, tenses</li> <li>very interested in words and language; <b>seeks knowledge</b></li> <li>understands and names opposites</li> <li>uses complex language</li> <li>still confuses fantasy and reality at times</li> <li>thinking is still naive; doesn't use adult logic</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>moving toward abstract thinking</li> <li>develops reasoning skills</li> <li><b>shifts from learning through observation and experience to learning via language and logic</b></li> <li>wants it all; has difficulty making choices</li> </ul>
<b>Social and emotional development</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>follows simple directions</b>; enjoys helping with household tasks</li> <li>begins to recognize own limits - asks for help</li> <li>likes to play alone, but not near other children</li> <li>does not cooperate or share well</li> <li>able to make choices between two things</li> <li>begins to notice other people's moods and feelings</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>takes turns, shares, and cooperates</li> <li>expresses anger verbally rather than physically</li> <li>can feel jealousy</li> <li>may sometimes lie to protect herself, but understands the concept of lying</li> <li>enjoys pretending and has a vivid imagination</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>distinguishes right from wrong, honest from dishonest, but does not recognize intent</li> <li>plays make-believe and dresses up</li> <li>mimics adults and seeks praise</li> <li>seeks to play rather than be alone; friends are important</li> <li>plays with both boys and girls but prefers the same sex</li> <li>wants to conform; may criticize those who do not</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>grows more independent</b>, yet feels less secure</li> <li>craves affection from parents and teachers</li> <li>friendships are unstable; can be unkind to peers</li> <li>needs to win and may change rules to suit herself</li> <li>may be hurt by criticism, blame, or punishment</li> <li>can be rigid, demanding, and unable to adapt</li> <li>increasingly aware that others have may have different feelings</li> </ul>

Source: Developmental milestones, Greatschools.org