



Four to Six Year Olds

The ages of 4-6 bring about monumental developmental change. Gross and fine motor skill development, language acquisition, social development and cognitive thinking all change dramatically. This is often the time when delays in development are identified and intervention provided. Children at this age are concrete thinkers, incapable of the level of abstract thinking older children exhibit. They are unable to distinguish between fantasy and reality. In addition they are egocentric in both thoughts and behavior.

Developmental milestones:

- Knows primary colors.
- Knows basic shapes.
- Counts to 5 and identify some letters.
- Holds a pencil or crayon correctly and can draw a simple human figure of 3-6 parts.
- Dresses him/her self.
- Enjoys telling stories and knows that stories have a beginning, middle and end.
- Evolves from parallel or side-by-side play to cooperative, interactive play.

Basic curriculum for this age group should include:

- Continued development and refinement of small and large motor skills.
- Practice using scissors, and jumping, galloping and skipping as well as balancing activities.
- Use of movement in all curriculum areas when possible.
- Emphasis on pre-reading skills by incorporating oral reading, narration, print awareness, letter knowledge and phonological awareness.
- Emphasis on pre-math skills by emphasizing one to one correspondence, sorting, pattern identification, shape comparison and simple addition.