



AGES and STAGES – FOUR Year-Olds

SPIRITUAL

- Feel secure in God's love and care
- Uses the terms **Jesus** and **God** interchangeably
- Visualize Jesus as a man
- Know Jesus loves them
- Express their love for Jesus
- Want to love and obey God
- Know that Jesus helps them
- Beginning to experience sense of guilt when doing something wrong
- Beginning to ask God and others for forgiveness for wrong things they do
- Need to hear that Jesus still loves them even when others don't show love to them and that He loves and forgives them when they do wrong things
- Worship enthusiastically and loudly, especially when they sing
- Know that prayer is "talking to God"; beginning to say their own prayers

Need Opportunities to:

- Worship, pray and sing
- Hear that Jesus loves them
- Act out Bible stories
- See the Bible as God's Word
- View self as part of God's family

INTELLECTUAL

- Better at sorting out people, but may still confuse relationships
- Can sort objects into two sets
- Can match colors and discriminate between them
- Have a greater sense about the world and how things work; able to connect experiences and verbalize what they know
- Beginning to know **left** and **right**
- Can retell stories
- Think very literally/concretely
- Can be offered challenges to stretch their thinking

Need opportunities to learn:

- At their own pace
- Through their senses
- Through exploration and experimentation

PHYSICAL

- Gaining in coordination
- More accuracy of whole body movement
- Can run, jump, hop, leap, slide, gallop and march
- Developing accuracy in throwing and catching
- Energetic
- Can use fingers and hands with increasing skill

Need:

- Basic physical care
- Safe environment for play

And opportunities for:

- Stretching and using large muscles
- Refining eye-hand coordination
- Strengthening small muscle control
- Achieving success

SOCIAL

- Still engaged in associative play but will do some cooperative play with one child taking the lead and others following
- Enjoy playing with other children
- May still need help in getting involved in play with others
- Developing ability to express needs and ideas in words
- Enjoying conversing with others about things in which they are interested

Need:

- Acceptance, assurance and a listening ear from adults
- Models for cooperative play
- Models for using words to express feelings

And opportunities to:

- Play with other children
- Share ideas
- Talk to and with others

EMOTIONAL

- Enjoy activities without adults
- Recognize teachers, pastors, others whom they see on a regular basis as important adults
- May need reassurance from adults when working or playing
- May still be unsure of themselves in new situations
- Beginning to get emotions under control
- Able to name basic emotions, but may still express them inappropriately
- Beginning to take initiative in tasks and play situations

Need:

- Unconditional love
- Unconditional acceptance
- Stability and sense of security

SKILLS

Listening to Stories

- Short attention span
- Need focusing activity (fingerplays, songs)
- Will listen to all kinds of stories
- May try to predict what will happen next
- Can participate in a “group-writing” story
- Can discuss focus and content of story with teacher
- Can begin to relate stories to own life
- Enjoy getting involved in story actions

Drama

- Enjoy dramatizing stories
- Beginning to be willing to take turns as the main character
- Need to be part of the action in dramatizations, if only as part the scenery (tree, flower)
- Enjoy role play, finger plays, and puppets
- Like echo pantomimes (teacher says and does words and actions that are repeated by the children)
- Enjoy dressing up as characters in a story

Singing

- Sings enthusiastically
- Have favorite songs they like repeated
- Can express what they hear in songs and what truths they find in them
- Enjoy movements that accompany songs

Questions

- Answer with accuracy
- Are more willing to wait their turn
- Will answer simple factual questions; also ‘what’ and ‘who’ questions
- Will listen to the answers of others

Directions

- Beginning to follow two- and three-step directions, if given clearly and slowly
- May still need touch to help them focus attention

ART

Drawing

- May have an idea in mind before they begin
- Like to narrate stories to accompany pictures/other productions and have their words written down
- Want their name on their work
- Process is still important, but product is beginning to take on importance

Stickers

- Place stickers with accuracy and precision
- May still enjoy the process of stickers, rather than the outcome

Glue

- Enjoy the messiness of gluing
- Enjoy the process of gluing and they don’t think about how much glue they are using
- Work best if glue is placed in plastic lids

Scissors

- Working on mastering the skill of cutting and gaining control
- Need opportunities to practice skill without lines (cutting play-dough, scrap paper, etc.)
- Enjoy cutting
- Like to cut to construct shapes

Routines

- Still need routines for security
- Know what comes next in regular routine
- Beginning to develop internal sense of time

FOUR-YEAR-OLD CHECKLIST

Child's Name _____ Date of Birth _____

First Assessment – Date _____ **Second Assessment – Date** _____

SPIRITUAL

- Feels secure in God's love and care
- Uses the terms **Jesus** and **God** interchangeably
- Visualizes Jesus as a man
- Expresses his/her love for Jesus
- Wants to love and obey God
- Is beginning to experience sense of guilt when doing something wrong
- Is beginning to ask God and others for forgiveness for wrong things he/she does
- Worships enthusiastically, especially when he/she sings
- Knows prayer is "talking to God"; beginning to say his/her own prayers
- Acts out Bible stories
- Sees the Bible is God's Word
- Views self as part of God's family

INTELLECTUAL DEVELOPMENT

- Can sort objects into two sets
- Can match colors and discriminate between them
- Is developing an understanding about the world and how things work
- Is able to connect experiences and to verbalize what he/she knows
- Is beginning to know **left** and **right**
- Thinks literally/concretely
- Enjoys intellectual challenges
- Enjoys learning through his/her senses
- Participates in exploration and experimentation

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

- Demonstrates increasing coordination
- Demonstrates accuracy of whole body movements
- Can run, leap, jump, hop, slide, gallop and march
- Developing accuracy when throwing and catching
- Is energetic
- Can use fingers and hands skillfully

EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Enjoys activities without adults
- Recognizes that other adults are important (teachers, pastors, others)
- Asks for assistance
- Is able to name basic emotions
- Demonstrates initiative in tasks and play situations

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

- Engages in associative play and some cooperative play
- Enjoys playing with other children
- Asks for help in getting involved in play with others
- Developing ability to express needs and ideas in words
- Enjoys conversing with others about things in which he/she is interested