

Developmental Expectations

PK and Kinder

The task of this age group is to establish an individual identity. They are in the process of learning about their role in relationships and the power they have with others and how that impacts the relationship. There are many social skills being learned along with the cause and effect of their behaviors.

CHARACTERISTICS OF A PRE-KINDER CHILD

- Expansive and sure of himself.
- Loves adventure and excursions.
- Is easily excited by new places, people and things.
- Is very imaginative.
- Is flexible and able to do many things.
- They tend to live “outside the boundaries.”

CHARACTERISTICS OF A KINDER CHILD

- Wants to be good.
- Wants to do everything “right.”
- Mother is the center of the child’s world.
- Has a serious air about him.
- Is comforted by the familiar.
- Can be self-limiting.
- Emotions can be overwhelming.

SOCIAL SKILLS

- Playing with others cooperatively.
- May have an imaginary companion.
- Sets up power struggles with adults and children.
- Fantasy play includes adult roles as practice for his identity.
- Learns that his behavior has an effect on others.
- Lovable, fun and exasperating.
- May use swearwords.
- Is fascinated with bathrooms and toilets.

ACADEMIC SKILLS

- Learns through play and fantasy.
- Curious and gathers information by asking many questions. Why? How long? Who? Where?
- Beginning to separate fantasy from reality.
- Is beginning his interest in games and rules.
- Traditional academic achievement is not his goal or his concern.

MOST HELPFUL FOR THIS AGE GROUP

- Routine and structure
- Consistent expectations
- Age appropriate responses
- Less explanations and More action
- Realistic responses