

What to expect from a preschool child?

Much of the challenging behavior of a preschool child is normal. It's part of their learning and development. While parents often find this behavior challenging, they might save themselves a lot of worry if they know what to expect.

A study of 555 preschool aged children showed that two, three and four year olds tend to behave the following way.

Most preschool aged children

- Pay no attention to what they are asked to do.
- Say "no," and refuse to do what is expected.
- Are pokey and waste time eating, dressing, washing.
- Leave tasks undone, start but don't finish.
- Wriggle around and don't sit still.
- Laugh, squeal, and jump around most of the time.
- Grab toys, shove, hit, scratch others.
- Refuse to share with other children.
- Ask for unnecessary help.
- Cry easily, sulk.
- Pick their nose, play with their fingers.
- Stay close to adults.
- Seek attention to show off and look for praise.
- Go to adults with criticism of others, boss others.
- Stay awake at nap time, don't want to rest, refuse food
- Speak indistinctly.
- Are hard to reason with.

One-third to one-half of preschool aged children

- Grumble and whine.
- Chew objects, suck thumbs, lisp, twist hair.
- Are shy and fearful of strangers.
- Tell fanciful stories as real or untrue.
- Refuse to play with others.
- Are jealous.