



When I am ... 4

This card offers suggestions on how you can help your four-year-old continue to develop in five key areas and have a lot of fun while learning at Imagine It! The Children's Museum of Atlanta!

Developmental Area	Skill	Activity in the Museum
Physical Development: Gross Motor Skills	I am running, jumping, and moving my body.	Dancing in <i>Let Your Creativity Flow</i> helps your child explore his or her creative side (and uses up some of that energy!).
Physical Development: Fine Motor Skills	I am really beginning to use my fine motor skills and learning to comb my hair, cook, and write.	Draw letters on the paint wall and build a sand castle in <i>Let Your Creativity Flow</i> . Fish in the pond, and have fun scooping up water in the pond and pouring it into the water wheels in <i>Leaping into Learning</i> .
Language and Literacy	As a learning reader, I am beginning to recognize simple words and symbols that represent words. I like learning new words too!	In <i>Fundamentally Food</i> , use the labels on the food to sort foods by name. Have fun reading the English and Spanish names of the foods.
Social Learning	I am learning about roles at home, in school, and in the community. I am also learning to share and relate with my friends.	Look for places around the Museum to play pretend: be a cook in the house or a truck driver in <i>Fundamentally Food</i> , or play dress up in <i>Let Your Creativity Flow</i> .
Learning & Problem Solving	I am learning about the world around me through observations. I am looking for opportunities to practice counting, create patterns, and learn science concepts.	There are many fun sorting opportunities in the Museum. See if your child can load the ball machines with balls in a color pattern: red, green, yellow.

Each child is unique and develops at his or her own pace. Four-year-olds are, if possible, even more physically active than ever! They are having fun. They are always moving, jumping, dancing, throwing balls, and more. Their fine motor coordination is moving right along as well. By the end of this year, they'll probably be able to write their own name. They can even recognize a few simple words that they see all the time, like "on" or "off." They are improving their social skills all the time, playing well with other children, and having conversations with other children and adults. They are curious about the world and are really beginning to understand people's roles in the community like "mommy," "daddy," "policeman," or "doctor." There is fun with numbers at this age too.

Additional Resources

Books:

Caring for your Baby and Young Child published by the American Academy of Pediatrics, Steven P. Shevlov, M. D. editor in chief

Building Healthy Minds: The Six Experiences that Create Intelligence and Emotional Growth in Babies and Young Children by Stanley Greenspan, M.D.

Fathering Your School-Age Child: A Dad's Guide to the Wonder Years: 3 to 9 by Armin A. Brott

Online Resources:

Georgia Department of Early Care & Learning: Bright from the Start has a web site with the early learning standards for infants up to three-year-olds. www.dec.al.gov

United Way has a site called "Born Learning" which gives developmental information, fun activities to do with children of all ages, and other great resources. www.bornlearning.org

PBS Kids has created a website on child development for children ages 1-8. www.pbs.org/parents/childdevelopment

Parents as Teachers has a website with parenting tips. www.parentsasteachers.org

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