

Children grow and change very quickly. How they speak, play and act give you important clues about your child's development.

Clues and Cues — 4 Years

By 4 years of age, does your child:

Language:

- Say rhymes (hit, bit, sit) or sing children's songs
- Ask and answer a lot of questions: "Why?", "What are you doing?"

Cognitive (thinking, learning, problem-solving):

- Understand 3-part related directions & longer sentences: "put your toys away & wash your hands before dinner"
- Show you 4 colours when asked: show me the red crayon

Social/Emotional:

- Look for adult approval
- Try to comfort someone who is upset

Physical (movement):

- Catch a large ball with hands outstretched
- Cut paper with scissors, hold a crayon or pencil correctly
- Use potty or toilet during the day (toilet trained)
- Undo buttons and zippers

How can dad help with his child's development?

- ✓ I am never too old to be hugged or kissed.
- ✓ I need to be heard to know that I am special.
- ✓ I enjoy ball games: Daddy teach me to use a bat, racquet, hockey stick, golf club, just like you do as an adult.
- ✓ I need to play with other children: if I am not in school I need to be involved in group activities with other children.
- ✓ I like it when you read to me: especially when you use different voices, daddy let's go to the library.

If you have questions or concerns about any activity for your child contact a health care or child care professional.

Get more information at www.ndds.ca.