

Boys & Girls 5 Years Old

26 Common Skills of Children During Their 5th Year



Young children are always learning.

They grow and develop at different rates, have different interests, and different experiences. This guide presents some of the skills most children are able to do during their 5th year.

Use this guide to help.

Remember that some children will be able to do all of these things and more. Other children may be able to do many of the things listed but not be able to do others. Use this guide to help you observe your five-year-old. If you have questions about your child, speak to your pediatrician or a school teacher.

During the 5th year, a child ...

1. Shows self confidence and independence

- joins a group of other children without feeling uncomfortable
- does not get mad when she/he makes mistakes in front of others
- gets dressed for school with little help

2. Follows house rules and respects other's belongings

- knows not to take drinks into the living room
- helps to carry the clothes to the laundry area
- asks others if she/he can play with their games

3. Accepts changes in routine

- gets ready to leave from grandma's house without complaining when told it's time to go
- understands when the trip to the zoo must be rescheduled

4. Is curious and eager to learn and is willing to keep trying

- gets excited about new games and new books
- asks questions to learn about things she/he does not know
- wants to try the new puzzle in the book and will spend a couple of days working on them
- asks for help (instead of quitting or getting angry)

5. Plays and works well with other children and wants to make friends

- is willing to listen to the suggestions of other children
- will help another child to solve a problem
- is comfortable playing with new children
- wants to play nicely with other children so they can be friends



6. Shows caring for other children

- helps a child who has fallen off a bike
- asks the group to include the child who has been left out of the game
- is willing to take turns playing with a toy

7. Listens more carefully to conversations and can follow a series of directions

- understands mom when she tells all of the children what they must do tonight before bed
- can ask dad what he wants from the store, and when at the store, remember to get it



8. Speaks clearly and can get others to understand her/his ideas

- can retell a story in the correct order
- can answer the phone and give the message to mom
- asks questions that are clear and that help to figure out a problem

9. Has good listening and remembering skills

- likes to listen to stories on tape and follow along with the book
- tells what she/he thinks will happen next in the story
- can put on a play that is about the story she/he heard last night at bed time

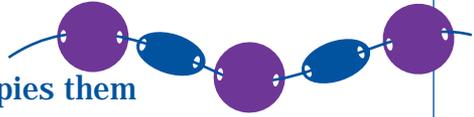
10. Begins to understand some written words

- knows all of the letters of the alphabet
- asks how to spell words
- knows familiar words like family member names, dog, cat, stop, go

cat
dog
stop

11. Wants to solve math problems

- guesses how many apples are in the bag and then counts them
- looks and decides if there are enough cookies for everyone to get one

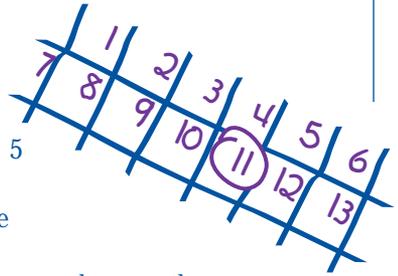


12. Recognizes patterns and copies them

- sees a pattern of colors of beads in a picture then strings beads to match
- claps hands the same number of times as the pattern (two short claps then two long claps)
- arranges pencils in a line from smallest to largest

13. Knows how to count and match the objects to the number

- shows that there are 5 books for the 5 family members
- sets the table with enough silverware for all who are eating lunch
- points on the calendar to count how many days until her/his birthday



14. Uses and names a variety of shapes

- uses squares, circles and triangles in a drawing
- explains that a square has four sides
- uses shape words to name the block (this blue one is a circle)



15. Starts to understand positions, comparisons and measuring

- says that the book is closer to dad than to grandpa
- says to hang the new drawing above the older drawing
- tells you the purple cup holds more soda than the green cup
- likes to guess how many marbles the jar will hold

16. Enjoys exploring the world



- notices how bubbles move through the air
- looks at the bicycle chain to see how it works
- wonders why some fall leaves are yellow and some are red
- watches insects crawl and fly



17. Develops an interest in examining and comparing



- starts a leaf collection
- explores where animals live
- explains why mixing red and yellow water makes orange water

18. Starts to notice how people look and act differently

- asks about people using wheelchairs or canes
- looks closely at people with different skin color or hair texture
- asks other children about foods that they are eating that look different

19. Is curious about the differences in families and in people's jobs

- asks a lot of questions about family habits when visiting a friend
- pretends to be a teacher or a police officer or a nurse

20. Becomes aware of technology

- wants to turn on the microwave
- begins to play learning games on the computer
- wants to set the VCR to record a movie



21. Realizes the reasons for rules

- warns the neighbor not to cross the street because cars drive by very fast
- tells friends to put the books back on the shelf so that they will not bend
- will not let others litter because it hurts the earth

22. Has more control over balance and movement

- hops on one foot
- walks up or down stairs while carrying some books
- skips and gallops smoothly to the rhythm of the music
- holds a pencil comfortably and uses the other hand to position the paper

23. Has good hand coordination



- uses scissors, tape, and a stapler to make a great picture
- hammers a nail into two pieces of wood
- buttons a shirt and zips a jacket easily

24. Takes care of some personal needs

- can make a jelly sandwich
- wants to use the bathroom alone
- keeps track of her/his own shoes, toys, books

25. Enjoys being creative

- makes a book, draws all the pictures and writes some words
- sings, claps and dances to the beat of a new song
- makes up a new song and hand movements to the song



26. Shows real interest in the work of others

- looks at someone's drawing and says it must have taken a long time to draw
- watches a friend put on a puppet show and thinks about how he is doing it
- tells her/his aunt that she did a really good job playing a song on the piano

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EPI-center prepared this document for use by families and caregivers of children preparing to enter first grade.

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