

Characteristics of the Kindergarten Child

Children are growing and maturing continuously. Every child has his/her own pattern of growth, but some characteristics are common to children of kindergarten age. To know these gives the teacher and parents a better understanding of the child, and better guidance is the result.

The Kindergarten child will be:

1. Four years and nine months or five years old
2. Extremely active,
3. Self-dependent in eating, dressing, toileting, and sleeping.
4. Growing rapidly.
5. Losing his/her first lower teeth.
6. Well matured in motor control; will hop, jump, and skip with ease.
7. Non-resistant to disease.
8. Far-sighted, requiring large objects and close contact.
9. Interested in other children, yet individualistic.

The Kindergarten child will have:

1. Good reasoning power.
2. Ability to make judgment with adult guidance.
3. Ability to plan carry out plans.
4. Desire to speak plainly and to use new words.
5. Ability to relate experiences and to retell stories.
6. Changeable minds – gradually acquiring more defined ideas.

The Kindergarten child needs:

1. To feel secure and loved.
2. To have group approval and acceptance.
3. A few special friends.
4. A happy environment.
5. Opportunity for exercising large muscles.
6. To share toys and take turns in play.
7. To increase his/her vocabulary.
8. Alternate periods of rest and activity.
9. Tens or more hours of sleep each night.
10. Good nutrition habits.

Parent can help by:

1. Being interested in the child's activities.
2. Providing good food and opportunity for plenty of sleep.
3. Having a quiet time each day
4. Inviting other children to the home, providing group play.
5. Talking with the child about new experiences while on walks or rides.
6. Taking him/her to the library.
7. Reading to him/her, helping him/her to be aware of written words telling something.
8. Helping him/her develop unselfish attitudes.