

Developmental Information

The Five Year Old

Physical

- Vision focused on objects close at hand
- Centered on task
- Gross motor improving
- 3-fingered pincer grasp with pencil
- Falls out of chair sideways
- Paces self well

Social

- Likes to help, cooperative, wants to be "good"
- Likes rules and routines
- Needs approval
- Dependent on authority; wants to be told what to do, but also finds it difficult from another's viewpoint

Language

- Literal, succinct
- "Play" and "good" favorite words
- Needs release from adult "Can I...?"
- Fantasy more active, less verbal
- Often does not communicate about school at home
- Thinks out loud

Cognitive

- Likes to copy
- Literal behavior; often only one way to do things
- Bound cognitively by sight and senses
- Animistic (inanimate objects have life, movement)
- Learns best through play and own action
- Does not yet think logically

Changes as Children Move Toward Six

Physical

- Visual and auditory confusion
- Reversals common
- Physically restless