

Four year olds are....

Social, and begin to include one, two, or three other children in their play. They begin to play more boys with boys and girls with girls, and make “best friends”.

Skilled at their basic needs, and begin to feel their independence from their parent.

Verbal, and will talk a lot, making up grand exaggerated stories, or silly made-up rhymes. May interrupt others as a thought pops into their head, they want to share.

Confident, and will often brag and try to be the best, the fastest, the first, the funniest.

Imaginative and love to play pretend, use props, play dress-up, and use classroom items for other purposes. (a plastic kiwi becomes a football)

Curious, asks questions, nonstop... why? How come?, can I do it?, is it time yet?

Active and coordinated, can hop on one foot, jump over objects 6” off the ground, run, go down and up stairs alternating feet, can imitate leaders actions, can ride and steer a trike successfully, may even be trying a two wheeler, can walk on a balance beam, and toss and catch a ball with a partner.

Funny, love silliness, jokes, and are developing their own sense of humor.

Interested in words, exact names for things, letters, and their own name.

Creative, uses more classroom materials and in different ways than when they were 3’s

Good listeners, to stories, love repetition and want to hear the same story over again.

Emotional, strong emotions can change rapidly, yet they recover quickly

Literal, concrete thinkers, abstract reasoning comes later

Limit testers, and are often out-of-bounds

Learn best when materials can be experimented with, touched, tasted, smelled, and moved around.

By Judy Barman