

COGNITION & PERCEPTION

What to look for *ages 3-5*

As your child progresses through cognitive and perceptual stages, they'll perform actions, make noises and speak based on what they experience and come to understand in the world around them.

Here are a few ways you'll notice these developments as they happen:

3 years

- Asks a lot of why, how, and when questions
- Begins to understand up/down, over/under, before/after, today, tomorrow and yesterday
- More able to use words to express thoughts and feelings, and to share experiences

4 years

- Better understands the concept of time and the order of daily activities, like breakfast in the morning, lunch in the afternoon, and dinner at night
- Remembers parts of a story and can tell you what they think is going to happen next
- Understands the concept of counting and knows some numbers

5 years

- Thinks ahead and plans their actions; can often anticipate physical consequences of actions that are not too complicated
- Begins to understand the difference between "right" and "wrong," and grasps the concept of rules
- Knows what things in the home are used for, like different appliances, money, and some tools

