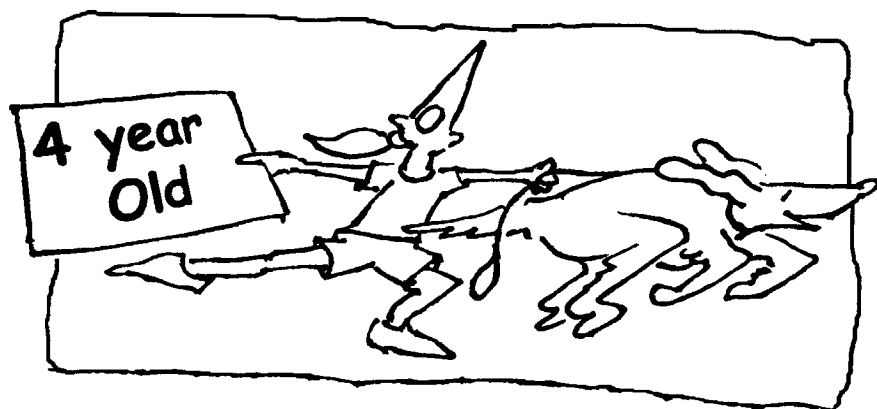


Speech and Language Traits of the Four Year Old



At age four, your child will...

- point to colors red, blue, yellow and green
- identify crosses, triangles, circles and squares
- follow commands even though objects are not present
- speak of imaginary conditions such as “suppose that” or “I hope”
- ask many questions, although he is more interested in how the answers fit into his own thoughts rather than simply an explanation
- have an average sentence length of 4 to 5 words
- ask “who?” and “why?”
- begin to use complex sentences
- use contractions such as “it’s a”
- use past tenses correctly
- have a vocabulary of nearly 1,500 words
- uses most speech sounds correctly

You can stimulate the four year old’s speech and language by...

- helping the child classify or group objects, explaining how things are alike or different
- teaching the child to correctly use the telephone
- letting the child help you plan activities such as what you will prepare for dinner
- giving the child more responsibility
- talking with the child as you would any other person
- reading longer stories to him or her
- letting him tell and make up stories for you
- continuing to show your pleasure and approval at his or her development in speech, language, and thought
- not expecting absolute perfection in the child’s pronunciation of words

Provided for you by the **Speech & Hearing Board of the Baptist Health Care Foundation**, a United Way Agency

If this information raises concerns regarding your child you may call one of the following for further information:



SPEECH & HEARING BOARD

- Baptist Hospital Speech & Hearing Clinic
(850) 434-4957
- Speech Department of West Florida Hospital
(850) 494-6140
- Audiology Clinic Escambia District Schools
(850) 453-7472