

SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL

What to look for ages 3 – 5

As your child progresses through the stages of social and emotional development, they'll begin expressing themselves based on the new ways they're coming to understand who they are and how they fit into the world around them.

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

3 years

- Shows concern and affection for others without prompting
- Verbalizes a wider range of emotion
- May confuse what's real and what's make-believe
- Enjoys routines and may get upset with a major change

4 years

- Plays cooperatively with other children
- Becomes more creative in pretend play
- Enjoys doing new things and seeks new experiences
- Negotiates solutions to conflicts

5 years

- Likes to sing, dance, and act
- Wants to please and be like friends
- Shows increasing independence
- Demonstrates both demanding and cooperative behaviors

