

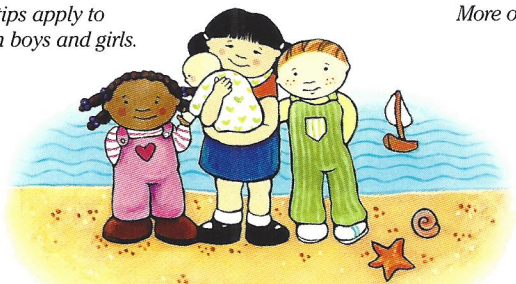
Your amazing 5 year old 5 year old milestones

During the 5th year, your child:

- likes to jump down from furniture
- can begin to rollerskate and jump rope
- can walk forward, backward and sideways on a balance beam
- catches ball with hands
- marches to music
- can dress and undress by self, combs hair
- puts shoes on correct feet
- can wash by himself*
- can tell a story using descriptive words
- tells original stories, uses a large vocabulary
- asks for meanings of words
- understands most kinds of shapes
- can count to 10, maybe to 20
- understands zero
- can write 1 through 5 correctly
- understands and names letters
- can write his first name
- understands a few written words
- can name the days of the week in order
- knows the date of his birthday
- knows his street address and city
- draws a human better than just a stick figure
- is willing to cooperate with you
- likes to be supervised and follows instructions
- likes to tell what is going to happen next
- may act protective of a younger sibling
- likes to tell simple jokes
- is becoming more patient and generous
- asks permission

* All tips apply to both boys and girls.

More on back



Hold me, love me, praise me so,
teach me, hug me, watch me grow

- expresses anger with words instead of physically
- is more reasonable in an argument
- develops a sense of fairness
- talks more and is more sociable
- will visit next door neighbors with confidence
- wants to please parents and other adults
- depends on his parents for approval
- is proud of his parents and loves to help them
- announces what he will do then does it
- will work alone on a chore for 20-30 minutes
- can sit and propel himself on a swing
- turns somersaults with ease
- hops in a straight line on one foot
- drops and kicks a ball before it hits the ground
- is eager to make and keep friends
- likes to play in small groups
- prefers children of same age and same sex
- explains rules of the game to playmates
- learns to respect the property of others
- thinks to use the toilet before he begins to play
- uses the toilet alone, wipes self, and flushes
- learns to cross the street by looking both ways

School readiness

- encourage children to want to learn and go to school; use praise a lot
- read out loud together every day
- set high standards and encourage children to try new things
- learn to really listen to them; set good examples
- teach them how to get along with others, to share and take turns and how to say, "I'm sorry"
- don't allow the words "dumb" or "stupid"
- seek assessment if you think your children may not be ready to move up to the next level, such as:
 - they are immature for their age
 - they are delayed in size or development
 - are physically clumsy, such as not throwing or catching a ball well; they don't draw or cut easily
 - have short attention spans or are easily distracted
 - have trouble with eye-hand coordination, like copying a circle, a diamond or the letter H
 - have trouble taking turns, sharing or playing
 - are shunned by other children

Children learn at their own pace, though most move through similar developmental stages. If you have concerns about your child's progress, contact your child's health care provider or look for an "Early Intervention" program in your community.