

PROFILE OF A 3-YEAR-OLD



Three-year-olds . . .

- are enthusiastic.
- are self-focused.
- like to please.
- are full of wonder.



Physical Characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • have developed large-muscle control • are just developing small-muscle control; cannot manipulate scissors well • are full of energy • need to move and stretch often • love to climb and run • are developing a sense of rhythm
Socioemotional Characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • do not like to be told what to do • need freedom to make choices • are still self-focused but may share with a friend • need help to regulate emotions and relate to others • like to celebrate • prefer to play alone • need frequent encouragement and reassurance from grown-ups • operate on an emotional level and spontaneously express their feelings • like to be independent • are amiable • are continually growing in sensitivity to other people
Intellectual Characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • are curious • speak and understand short sentences • have an attention span of about five minutes • do not understand symbols • are imaginative and creative • like silliness, rhyming, and long words
Religious Characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • begin to understand God's love by experiencing human love • need to see that God made them and every other child unique and special • need to experience success • like to help • are full of wonder at creation and their own abilities • delight in simple prayer