

Developmental Milestones for Junior Kindergarten Ages 4-5

Information from Responsive Classroom Website:

<https://www.responsiveclassroom.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/Yardsticks-for-Elementary-School.pdf>

Common Developmental Traits by Age

(Adapted from *Yardsticks: Children in the Classroom Ages 4–14*, 3rd edition, by Chip Wood, CRS, 2007)

Age	Physical	Language/Cognitive	Social/Emotional
4	Fine motor skills poorly developed Visual focus on distant objects Need physical activity	Learn through exploratory play and activities that call on large muscles Love being read to Enjoy language and delight in playing with words Short attention span for paper/pencil tasks	Friendly and talkative Check in with adults frequently; need advice/modeling of appropriate behavior Enjoy being with friends but often engage in parallel play Love having “jobs” such as counting, attendance, snack helper
5	Still awkward with small motor activities Able to see close objects best Need physical activity	See one way to do things Imaginative; don’t always distinguish real from imaginary Literal—raining cats and dogs means animals falling from sky Learn through direct experience Concise; use few words in response to questions Concrete, sequential problem-solving Think out loud before acting	Seek attachment and approval; want to “do it right” Later in year might test adult authority Appreciate boundaries Good at partner and solo work