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Pre-School Pages

A newsletter for parents of preschoolers packed with food, facts, and fun
From your local county extension office

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Kids Care Preschool Facts



- Preschoolers are hardly ever quiet. They usually are knocking over blocks, singing loudly, or making noises that go along with their toys. Make sure you know where they are playing and that they are playing with safe materials. Accidents can happen easily.

- Preschoolers often seem “out of control!” They might laugh hysterically, jump on their beds, or scream and kick their feet. When frustrated or angry, they may hit or spit. They may have unreasonable fears and bad habits such as nail biting, nose picking, thumb sucking, or swearing. They may tell you they love you one minute, and say they hate you the next. All of this is normal behavior for preschoolers.

- Preschoolers like hugs and kisses. You may find them crawling upon your lap for a story or needing a hug if they are frightened. While you are playing together, please do not give in to the urge to tease or tickle preschoolers. Teasing and tickling make young children feel powerless. Nobody likes that, especially from someone big. Treat children with respect.



- Preschoolers need praise. Tell them you like the picture, their shirt, or the tower they built. They love knowing exactly what is that pleases you. Be specific with your praise.

Say, “I like the way the green cat is chasing the man in your picture,” or “I like the way your shirt is tucked into your jeans.”

- Boys and girls like to play with the same toys. Girls like to play in the dirt with trucks, and boys like to dress up their teddy bears and dolls.

- If preschoolers see you doing something, they want to do it too! They think anything that older people do is interesting – even cooking and cleaning! Listen to their offers for help and their suggestions for activities, and go along with them if they are safe. Encourage them to help you and to try new experiences.



*Source: Reprinted with permission from the National Network for Child Care – NNCC. Lagoni, L. S., Martin, D. H., Maslin-Cole, C., Cook, A., MacIsaac, K., Parrill, G., Bigner, J., Coker, E., & Sheie, S. (1989). Good times with preschoolers. In *Good times with child care* (pp. 29-40). Fort Collins, CO: Colorado State University Cooperative Extension. Patricia A. Johnson, Ed. D., Cooperative Extension, Department of Human Development and Family Studies, Gifford Building, Room 119, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Co 80523;*



Disabilities accommodated with prior notification.

