



Four-Year-Old

YOU HAVE APPROXIMATELY 728 WEEKS AND COUNTING

THIS YEAR YOU WILL INCITE WONDER SO YOUR CHILD WILL KNOW GOD'S LOVE AND MEET GOD'S FAMILY.

Your four-year-old has many questions. Some might be about creation, heaven, church, and the Bible...and some of their questions might already be hard to answer. Don't panic. Just like other topics, answer faith questions as simply as possible. If they need to ask more, they will.

Life for your four-year-old can be confusing. It's okay to throw a ball, but not a rock. You can hug your friend, but not squeeze his neck. Your four-year-old is learning the rules for life and encountering some necessary discipline. The way you consistently meet their needs, engage their senses, and provide discipline will help them develop self-control.

SAY THINGS LIKE...

- "God made. God loves you. Jesus wants to be your friend forever."
- "Was Daniel afraid when he was thrown into the lion's den?"
- (Talk about what your preschooler learns at church.)
- "Are you scared? Let's talk to God about it."
- "Do not be afraid for the Lord your God is with you. Joshua 1:9 (Repeat simple Bible verses.)"
- "Can you help me carry these socks?" (Prompt them to help.)
- "Isn't that wonderful? Let's thank God for it."



CONNECTION POINT: MORNING TIME

Set the mood for the day. Smile. Greet them with words of love.



CONNECTION POINT: DRIVE TIME

Reinforce simple ideas. Talk to your toddler and play music as you go.



CONNECTION POINT: MEAL TIME

Be personal. Spend one-on-one time that communicates love and affection.



CONNECTION POINT: BED TIME

Be a counselor. Strengthen your relationship through heart conversations at the end of the day.

**THINKS LIKE
AN ARTIST**

You help them learn when you...
ENGAGE THEIR SENSES

**WANTS TO KNOW,
"AM I OKAY?"**

You capture their heart when you...
CULTIVATE THEIR SELF-CONTROL.

**IS MOTIVATED
BY SAFETY**

You coach their moral abilities when you...
DISCIPLINE CONSISTENTLY.

YOUR FOUR-YEAR-OLD IS CHANGING...

THE PHASE WHEN ANYTHING CAN BE IMAGINED, EVERYTHING CAN BE A GAME, AND ONE CURIOUS PRESCHOOLER WANTS TO KNOW, "WHY?"

PHYSICALLY

- Hops on one foot.
- Strings beads and cuts with scissors (the plastic kind).
- Throws a ball overhead and catches a bounced ball (sometimes).
- Draws circles, squares, and a person with 2-4 body parts.

SOCIALLY

- Tells a short story.
- Keeps a conversation going.
- May struggle with some sounds: r, l, s, z, j, sh, ch, th.
- Adjusts speech based on the listener and location.

MENTALLY

- Sorts things and ideas into categories.
- Recognizes less and more (especially if it's candy).
- Can argue, explain, and rationalize (you may have noticed).
- Lives in present, but enjoys retelling the story of past events.

EMOTIONALLY

- Tends to be optimistic in spite of failure.
- Enjoys both physical humor and simple jokes.
- Can learn relaxation techniques (take a deep breath).
- Often deals with fear and anxiety by distracting themselves.