

## WHAT TO EXPECT OF YOUNG CHILDREN:

### **The infant**

- cries to get what is needed.
- is dependent on adults.
- loves to play with food.
- grows rapidly.
- gets into everything.
- sleeps less each month.
- learns by touching, tasting, smelling, seeing, and hearing.

### **The toddler**

- is negative and says no many times.
- is possessive and considers everything "mine."
- is noisy.
- is self-centered.
- has short memory.
- is curious and explores.
- can not make choices.
- is easily distracted, plays, dawdles.
- can not sit still.

### **The three-year-old**

- tries to please.
- minds well and can follow brief instructions.
- accepts suggestions.
- can understand reasons.
- listens well especially when called by name.
- can make simple choices.
- speaks well enough to be understood.
- is not capable of sharing.

### **The four-year-old**

- wants friends.
- asks many questions.
- tends to be bossy.
- brags and stretches the truth.
- tells on others.
- talks a lot.
- can learn to take turns if the wait is not long.
- values self.
- enjoys playing with made-up words.
- says words to shock others.

### **The five-year-old**

- gets along well with friends and parents.
- is businesslike.
- likes to act like grown-ups.
- is dependable.
- likes praise.
- likes to feel important.
- tells on others.
- enjoys dressing up.
- can give name and address.
- is serious and demanding.

### **The six-year-old**

- thrives on approval.
- is possessive with belongings.
- has trouble compromising.
- has difficulty making choices.
- responds negatively at first and then cooperates.
- plays best with one other friend, not a large group.
- does not want to hurt people.
- wants to learn.
- needs to be reminded of instructions.
- is active.
- resists punishment.

### **The seven-year-old**

- is sensitive to others' feelings.
- does not listen well.
- is very competitive and does not know how to lose.
- dislikes individual praise.
- wants to be part of a group.
- lies because of immaturity.
- has an immature sense of ownership.
- loses interest suddenly.
- fights with words.
- cries when something does not work.
- does not take correction well.
- responds well to rewards.
- needs personal touch and conversation.

### **The eight-year-old**

- can respond rapidly to instructions.
- prefers a hint or a cue instead of a direct order.
- asks for praise.
- dislikes being teased about shortcomings.
- has a lively sense of property and ownership.
- tells tales with some truth.
- can not lose gracefully.
- is tolerant of other cultures.
- learns through others' mistakes.
- behavior improves after brief isolation from a group.
- likes hard tasks.
- interests are brief.
- likes to argue and to compete.
- needs extra time.
- can be controlled with just a glance.