

Helping Your Four Year Old Excel in their Preschool Classroom

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There are certain things parents of four year olds can do at home and on errands that will help them easily grasp concepts introduced in their preschool classrooms.

When making projects at home, for example, ask how many bows they are adding, or when drawing a person, ask does the person have everything they should? Does the drawing have 2 eyes, nose, mouth, 2 ears, etc. Drawing a complete body with arms, legs, feet, hands and facial features is something they look for in Kindergarten.

When out and about driving, have your preschooler look out the window and look for letters. The letters could be on signs, storefronts, in the vehicle, etc. Have them tell you the letter. This is a great use of environmental print. When you are grocery shopping, have them listen to your instructions and have them help. "Could you go get a bunch of bananas, please?" Then work on adding more directions. You are working on following 2 to 3 step directions.

In my four year old preschool classroom, a typical curriculum might follow working on recognizing the first letter of classmates' first names. Working on recognizing the letter mixed in with other letters, letter sounds, writing the letter and being able to find the letter around the classroom are very age appropriate lessons. An example of this is when we read a book we talk about the letters in the title. We point out the different letters in the month and the days of the week. When we write words on the chalkboard we talk about the sound and the letter. We also work on lots of shapes including basic shapes and even pentagons and octagons. We have worked on numbers 1-10. By the end of the year I want the students to understand 1 – 20 concretely and to be able to count on from 20.

When at home and also when driving around, it should be easy to have your preschooler point out numbers and shapes and letters. This is a very fun and easy way to help them grasp these concepts and will set them up to be engaged, creative, life-long learners.

