For free copies of the booklets in the series:

For Infants

For Ones

For Twos

For Threes

For Fours

Email info@flcdp.org to obtain other booklets in the series.

The series includes booklets for:

Early Childhood Collaboratives. It was written by early childhood professionals in your community.

This booklet was originally funded by the Juvenile Welfare Board of Pinellas County and developed by the Pinellas

A child development checklist and tips booklet

The Early Learning Coalition of Pinellas County, Inc. is pleased to present you with

Threes

Child Development Checklist & Tips
Resources

Internet Parenting Resources
- www.kirkpines.org
- www.emcpb.org
- www.pcb.org

VPK Resources
Florida's Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) education program is FREE for all children who live in Florida.

Kindergarten Enrollment
Your child must be 4 years old on or before September 1st of the year she starts VPK.

www.rclub.net
www.vpkpinellas.net or call (727) 400-4411
www.vpkpinellas.org or call (727) 588-6210

www.rfl.org
www.allkids.org
www.healthys tampabay.org
www.211tampabay.org
www.pbs.org/parents

www.fikid.org
www.parenting.info
www.zerotothree.org
www.kidsdogrowth.com
www.pcbc.org
Resources

Community Resources

Medical Emergencies ........................................................................................................... 911
Poison Control ...................................................... 1-800-222-1222
SafeKids (childproof home, car seats, water safety, injury prevention) ....................... 1-800-756-7233
Pinellas County Health Department (low cost physicals, immunizations) ....................... (727)824-6900
Community Health Centers of Pinellas (referrals, prescriptions) .......................... (727)821-6701
Florida Kid Care (health insurance) .................................................................................... (727)888-540-5437
American Red Cross (infant/child first aid & CPR classes) ........................................... (727)446-2358
US Consumer Product Safety Hotline (unsafe or recalled products) ......................... 1-800-638-2772
Car Seat Education and Safety .............................. Call local fire department
Community Resources (clothing, emergency shelter, counseling, parent support) ........... 2-1-1 or (727)210-4211
WIC Florida (food for women, infants, and children) ...................................................... 1-800-342-3556
Public Library Information .......................................................... (727)441-8408
Reporting Suspected Child Abuse or Neglect .......................................................... 1-800-96ABUSE
(1-800-962-2873)

Child Care Resources

Child Care Resource & Referral (locate child care centers and homes) ......................... 2-1-1 or (727)210-4211
Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) .................................................. (727)400-4411
School Readiness Child Care Wait List / Eligibility Requirements .......................... (727)400-4411
Pinellas County Child Care Licensing (history of compliance/complaints) ............... (727)507-4857

Child Development Resources

The Early Learning Coalition (ELC) Warm Line ..................................................................... (727)545-7536
Early Steps (birth to 36 months) .................................................... (727)767-4403
Early Steps Parent Support ............................................................................ (727)767-6705
FDLRS Child Find (birth to 21 years) .................................................. (727)793-2723
Parenting and Child Guidance ........................................................................... (Helpline) 211
or (727)210-4211
Project Challenge (concerns about my child’s behavior in child care) ...................... (727)578-5437
Thinking & Reasoning

Thinking & Reasoning Tips

Young children gain understanding of concepts. As children are immersed in creative and logical ways in a child's mind, they develop their understanding of the world around them.

- Provide opportunities for the child to sing, dance, and move to music.
- Encourage creativity by offering a variety of art materials, such as paper, paint, drawing tools, empty boxes, and cardboard.
- Enhance fine motor skills and help the child learn coordination.
- Provide books and materials that portray diverse people and cultures.
- Support reading by providing dolls, stuffed animals, dress-up clothes, and props.
- Provide opportunities for play and learning outdoors.
- Enhance self-esteem and develop the child's social skills.
- Schedule supervised outdoor time for the child to interact with nature daily.
- Provide simple mathematical tools, such as magnets, measuring cups, and checkers.
- Provide simple mathematical tools, such as magnets, measuring cups, and checkers.
- Enhance logic and creativity by involving the child in logical and creative endeavors and ideas.
- Materials, people, and work with real-life situations.

Your child's thinking and reasoning skills are best supported when you:

- Cuddle and interact with your child.
- Start out early. Put your child on the right track to learn and develop the skills they need.
- Focus on the child's natural interests and abilities.
- Provide opportunities for the child to explore and learn.
- Encourage the child to ask questions and seek answers.
- Praise the child for their efforts and achievements.
- Be patient and understanding.
- Provide a safe and secure environment for the child to explore and learn.
- Encourage the child to take risks and make mistakes.
- Provide opportunities for the child to express themselves.
- Be a good listener and provide feedback.

This book is designed to help you develop your child's thinking and reasoning skills. If you have any questions or concerns about your child's development, please consult a professional from the Child Development Center. For additional assistance, please call 727-734-3073. Feedback is critical in helping our children be all they can be!
Does your child....

...match or sort items by color, size, or shape?  
...count to ten in order (one, two, three, four...)?  
...notice and point out shapes in the environment (circles, squares, triangles)?  
...understand position words, such as in, out, under, on, next to, in front of, or behind?  
...use words, such as more/less, big/small, tall/short, or fast/slow to compare objects?  
...make observations using simple tools, such as a magnifier, magnet, scale, or ramp?  
...act out familiar roles during pretend play, such as mommy, daddy, baby, or doctor?  
...follow simple rules, with your help?  
...help pick up toys and trash to keep her environment organized and clean?  
...use crayons or markers to draw shapes and lines on paper?  
...smile, clap, move, or dance to the rhythmic beat of music?

This is one in a series of five resource booklets on child development. The series also includes booklets on infant, one year old, two year old, and four year old development.

Each booklet begins with sections on Brain Development and Safety followed by Domains of Development that align with the Florida Early Learning and Developmental Standards. The Resources page provides community and Internet resources to help meet the needs of families and young children.

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The importance of your role as a parent cannot be underestimated.

Emotional needs: When your child is fearful or has any emotional problems, you need to show your love and care. It is important to provide a safe environment where your child can feel secure. This will affect his/her emotional development.

Good habits: Your child will learn from the habits you practice. If you are punctual and organized, your child will develop the same habit.

Positive reinforcement: If your child does something good, reward him/her positively. This will encourage your child to do more.

Cooperation and cooperation: Encourage your child to work in a team. This will help him/her develop good social skills.

Reading & Writing Tips:

- Read aloud with your child.
- Provide a variety of books that your child can relate to.
- Set a routine for reading.
- Make reading a part of your child's daily routine.
- Encourage your child to write stories and draw pictures.
- Use flashcards to improve your child's memory.
- Ask your child questions to improve his/her critical thinking.

Your child's brain will react positively to positive and negative experiences.

Brain Development:

Your child's brain is developing throughout childhood. Learning experiences are transformed through exposure to different stimuli. Your child's brain will react positively to positive and negative experiences.

Brain Development:

Your child's brain is developing throughout childhood. Learning experiences are transformed through exposure to different stimuli. Your child's brain will react positively to positive and negative experiences.
Does your child...

- select books to “read” by herself?
- ask you to read a book?
- hold books gently and carefully while turning the pages one at a time from right to left?
- fill in the missing word if you pause while reading a familiar story?
- play with sounds to make up nonsense words?
- recognize one or more letters in her name?
- recognize some words on street signs, store signs, restaurant signs, or food packages?
- use pretend writing to write notes, recipes, lists, or letters during play?
- describe or “read” her drawings and scribbles to you?

Brain Development Tips

Your child’s brain will develop best when you:

- talk to her often, ask questions, and show an interest in what she is doing and experiencing.
- offer a variety of healthy foods and water throughout the day.
- name, count, and describe objects.
- read to her every day.
- sing songs, play rhyming games, and listen to different kinds of music every day.
- respond to her feelings and provide words she can use to express her emotions.
- provide opportunities for her to play with problem solving toys and puzzles.
- stay calm and happy, avoiding stress and traumatic experiences.
- limit the amount of time she spends watching television and using computer games.

“It’s not if your child is learning, it’s what your child is learning that’s important.”

“The bottom line on brain research? Love your children. Talk to them. Read to them.”

~ Rob Reiner

Brain Development
Tip 1: Provide interesting experiences and activities and give her the words to describe what's happening.

Tip 2: Talk with her about her interests and daily experiences.

Tip 3: Remember to respond to your toddler's questions.

Tip 4: Give her lots of conversations allowing enough time for her to make comments and ask questions.

Tip 5: Your child's listening skills are best supported when you:

Tip 6: Adjust the water heater temperature to 115°F or less to prevent burns.

Tip 7: Use good hand washinghabits and keep the glove lock.

Tip 8: Placea child seatin the back seat ofyour car.

Tip 9: Place coats that are unhemmed, washable, and non-toxic.

Tip 10: Always useABC—Always be safety is simple.
Listening & Talking

Does your child:

...repeat details of a favorite story? [ ] [ ]

...answer questions and respond to what you say? [ ] [ ]

...engage in conversations with other children and adults? [ ] [ ]

...use complete sentences to express her needs? [ ] [ ]

...follow through when you give two step directions, such as when you ask her to “Put the doll on the shelf and sit in your chair”? [ ] [ ]

...sing simple songs and recite nursery rhymes? [ ] [ ]

...speak clearly enough to be understood by most adults? [ ] [ ]

...use personal pronouns correctly, such as I, you, me, she, he, him, or her? [ ] [ ]

...demonstrate an awareness of grammar rules by adding –ing, –ed, or –s when appropriate? [ ] [ ]

...use comparative words, such as bigger/smaller, faster/slower, or colder/warmer? [ ] [ ]

...describe a picture or recent event? [ ] [ ]

...have conversations with a doll or toy during pretend play? [ ] [ ]

• never leave her unattended near water (bathtub, swimming pool, or wading pool). Supervise her closely and remember that children can drown in less than 3 inches of water.

• enroll her in formal swim lessons when she is emotionally and physically ready.

• teach her simple safety rules and help her understand the importance of avoiding common dangers, such as hot appliances and moving cars.

• make sure she holds your hand while crossing the street or walking through parking areas.

• keep all guns out of your house or store locked, unloaded, and uncocked guns in an out of reach, locked container. Store ammunition separately.

• attend a first aid and Pediatric CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation) training. (See Resources.)
Your three-year-old child is learning to handle emotions, still occur, but situations may call for different ways to communicate, and emotions are expressed in many different ways.

Social & Emotional Development Tips:

- Consistently express how they need to use the toilet.
- Have a set routine for eating, sleeping, and brushing their teeth.
- Use a tissue to wipe their nose and then throw the used tissue in the trash.
- Wash your hands before eating and after diapering.
- Choose a variety of healthy foods in adequate amounts.
- Place the fork or spoon in their hand when eating.
- Draw with crayons or markers and sometimes make recognizable shapes?
- If small objects get stuck, place a bag or paper on top of the child.
- Open and close scissors to control.
- Feel independently and ask for help.
- Hop one time without losing their balance.
- Use two hands to catch a ball.
- Throw a ball and throw it with some accuracy.
- Use pedals to ride a tricycle or riding toy.
- Play with and toy and other toys for 10 or 20 minutes without help from an adult.
- Can climb, jump, and gallop.

Does your child...
Does your child....

...offer to help you?  

...show an eagerness to play with other children? (She may need your help developing friendships.)

...demonstrate an ability to wait and take turns?

...care and show concern for other children and adults?

...follow simple rules and accept limits?

...follow routines and predict what will happen next, such as knowing rest time comes after lunch?

...put toys and materials where they belong when she is finished using them?

...ask for help when necessary?

...use words to solve problems instead of hitting when she’s angry or frustrated?

...try to take care of her personal needs (dressing, feeding, and toileting)?

...try new tasks and take pride in her accomplishments (saying, "I did it")?

...volunteer to help you complete household chores?

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Physical Development Tips

Your child’s physical development skills are best supported when you:

- provide a safe outdoor environment and daily opportunities to run, jump, climb, pedal, and explore.
- provide puzzles, peg boards, blocks, and stringing beads to help her develop eye-hand coordination.
- provide opportunities for her to use crayons, markers, fingerpaint, scissors, and play dough.
- make sure she has regular medical and dental checkups, up-to-date immunizations, and prompt medical attention when needed.
- make sure she brushes her teeth regularly.
- encourage independence by providing a step stool and low toy shelves.
- choose clothing that is easy for her to put on and take off and encourage her to button and zip.
- allow her to serve herself at meal time.
- encourage and model healthy eating habits and limit unhealthy, processed food items.
- establish a quiet/nap time during the day and a set bedtime at night.
- provide an appropriately sized potty seat or step stool to assist with independent toileting.
- limit television/computer use and encourage physical play. The American Academy of Pediatrics strongly advises no more than two hours of educational, nonviolent programs daily.
Learning Styles

Your child will learn a variety of materials and experiences with new experiences and encourage her to try best when you...

- Plan what she will wear before she gets to her closet?
- Make pretend food items and pretend to eat them?
- Pretend to be a family pet or person?
- Create new ways to use familiar items, such as using a spoon as a microphone?
- They all down or repeatedly turning a toy until its huge a slate?
- Does your child ever say, "What is that?"
- Look for items that interest her?
- Ask for help when necessary?
- Ask why and where questions to get more information?
- Notice new items and ask, "What is that?"
- Tell about something that happened yesterday or earlier in the day?
- Do you ever use real items, such as using a spoon as a microphone?