Milestones of Social-Emotional Development

Use the following chart as a resource for yourself regarding children's behaviors in preschool.

**Social Emotional Development for Preschoolers**

| By 3 years, preschoolers: | • Copy adults and friends  
| | • Show affection for friends without prompting  
| | • Take turns in games  
| | • Show concern for crying friends  
| | • Understand the idea of “mine” and “his” or “hers”  
| | • Show a wide range of emotions  
| | • Separate easily from mom and dad  
| | • May get upset with major changes in routine  
| | • Dress and undress self  
| | • Name a friend  
| | • Carry on a conversation using two or three sentences  
| | • Play make-believe with dolls, animals, and people |

| By 4 years, preschoolers: | • Enjoy doing new things  
| | • Play “mom” and “dad”  
| | • Are more creative with make-believe play  
| | • Would rather play with other children than alone  
| | • Cooperate with other children  
| | • Often can’t tell what’s real and what’s make-believe  
| | • Talk about likes and interests  
| | • Understand the idea of “same” and “different”  
| | • Play board or card games |

| By 5 years, preschoolers: | • Want to please friends  
| | • Want to be like friends  
| | • More likely to agree with rules  
| | • Like to sing, dance, and act  
| | • Show concern and sympathy for others  
| | • Are aware of gender  
| | • Can tell what’s real and what’s make-believe  
| | • Show more independence  
| | • Are sometimes demanding and sometimes very cooperative |