# 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


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Milestones</th>
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| 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 2-3 sentences  
• Play make-believe with dolls, animals, and people |
| By 4 years, preschoolers: | • Enjoy doing new things  
• Play “mom” and “dad”  
• Is 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
- Is sometimes demanding and sometimes very cooperative