

All About Preschoolers

BASIC CHARACTERISTICS

WHO are they? How do you describe them?

Preschoolers are **CURIIOUS**. They investigate things that interest them.

Preschoolers are **ACTIVE**. They move constantly, a natural part of growth.

Preschoolers are **CREATIVE**. Children enjoy expressing their own ideas.

Preschoolers are **SELF-FOCUSED**. They can think only from their own point of view.

Preschoolers are **SENSITIVE**. They can read emotions and feelings around them.

Preschoolers have a **LIMITED ATTENTION SPAN**. They can remain involved in an activity only as long as their attention span allows.

Preschoolers are **LITERAL-MINDED**. They think in terms of what they have seen and experienced.

Preschoolers **EXPLORE LIMITS**. They test to make sure the environment is safe.

BASIC NEEDS

WHAT are their needs?

LOVE is an action rather than an abstract feeling. A preschooler must feel loved to have his need for love met.

TRUST is developed when needs are met regularly.

ACCEPTANCE grows from the unconditional love of parents and teachers.

INDEPENDENCE develops from being allowed to do things and make choices.

FREEDOM is learning to make appropriate choices.

SECURITY means the child knows he is welcome, safe, and free from harm.

GUIDANCE is direction given by a teacher to help the child make choices.

A **SENSE OF ACCOMPLISHMENT** results from having been given opportunities to succeed.

LEARNING APPROACHES

WHAT types of learners are they?

VISUAL learners must "see" to learn. They may visualize word pictures as they listen to a story.

VERBAL learners learn best through words (reading, writing, speaking, listening).

RELATIONAL learners are very social and are drawn to activities that allow interaction with others.

MUSICAL learners are sensitive to rhythm and pitch and enjoy musical activities.

LOGICAL learners enjoy problem solving, games, and puzzles.

PHYSICAL learners are very active, have good coordination, and use their entire bodies to learn.

NATURAL learners focus on the natural world as an avenue of learning.

REFLECTIVE learners enjoy working alone. They internalize concepts by personalizing them.

PATHWAYS FOR LEARNING

HOW do they learn?

SENSES (seeing, touching, tasting, smelling, hearing) are tools for discovery.

CURIOSITY drives a child to explore, discover, and ask questions.

HANDS-ON EXPERIENCES encourage active involvement in learning.

SATISFACTION encourages a child to continue learning experiences.

RELATIONSHIPS allow adults to communicate truths to preschoolers.

IMITATION allows a child to experiment with roles and ideas.

PLAY allows a child to learn and apply concepts, accept responsibility, and solve problems.

REPETITION encourages a child to build on previous learning and understand more fully what he has already learned.