

THREE & FOUR

THE PHASE
WHEN →

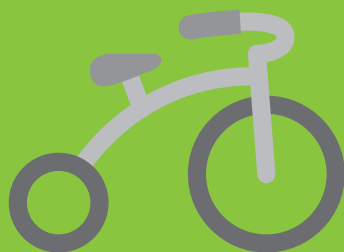
AND ONE
CURIOUS PRESCHOOLER

↓
WANTS TO KNOW

ANYTHING CAN BE
IMAGINED,

←
EVERYTHING CAN BE A GAME,

"WHY?"







IMAGINATION IS REALITY.

Your preschooler might suddenly become a self-proclaimed princess, pirate, or superhero. Your bedroom might turn out to be a train station, a castle, or both. But imagination may also turn scary. Fear may set in when at any given moment, a monster can show up in the hallway, a snake can be under the bed, or a dragon can walk through the living room.

EVERYTHING CAN BE A GAME.

You motivate your preschooler best when you appeal to their desire to play. Whatever the task, turn it into a game; make it fun. When you're having fun, they'll have fun with you. And there is simply nothing more entertaining than the spontaneous laughter of a three-year-old.

THEY HAVE A NEWFOUND CURIOSITY.

Spending time with this phase may seem like a visit to your therapist: "Why?" "Why?" "Why?" But when a four-year-old asks why, they aren't looking for reason or purpose. What they are really asking is "How?" So when they ask you "why" the second and third time, remember they aren't doubting you. They're just looking for more of the knowledge they know you must have as an adult person.

IT'S JUST A
PHASE

SO DON'T
MISS IT



YOUR ROLE IS TO
EMBRACE
THEIR PHYSICAL NEEDS

Life for your preschooler can be confusing. It's okay to throw a ball, but not a rock. You can hug your friend, but not squeeze his neck. Every day, your preschooler is learning new rules and discovering not only abilities, but also limits. The way you consistently meet their needs, engage their interests, and provide discipline will help them cultivate self-control.

**THINKS LIKE
AN ARTIST**

You help them learn when you...
ENGAGE THEIR SENSES.

**WANTS TO KNOW,
"AM I OKAY?"**

You capture their heart when you...
**CULTIVATE THEIR
SELF-CONTROL.**

**IS MOTIVATED
BY SAFETY**

You coach their moral abilities when you...
DISCIPLINE CONSISTENTLY.



YOU GIVE YOUR TODDLER A FIRST IMPRESSION OF
THEIR HEAVENLY FATHER.

When you **EMBRACE** your preschooler's physical needs,
you help them...

**KNOW GOD'S LOVE.
MEET GOD'S FAMILY.**

Practically speaking, that means every week
you have an opportunity to...

**CONNECT WITH A FAITH COMMUNITY.
LET THEM PRAY WHILE THEY ARE WITH YOU.
READ BIBLE STORIES AND ANSWER FAITH QUESTIONS.
REPEAT A SIMPLE MONTHLY IDEA LIKE:**

**"God
made me."**

**"God
loves me."**

**"Jesus
wants to be
my friend
forever."**

You can do these things by taking advantage
of the time you already spend together.

**MORNING
TIME**

SET THE MOOD
FOR THE DAY.

Smile and greet
them with words
of love.

**DRIVE
TIME**

TALK TO YOUR
PRESCHOOLER
ABOUT GOD.

Reinforce simple
ideas as you go.

**BATH
TIME**

WIND DOWN
TOGETHER.

Provide comfort
as the day draws
to a close.

**CUDDLE
TIME**

BE PERSONAL.

Read a Bible story
or pray together.



YOUR PRESCHOOLER IS CHANGING...

PHYSICALLY

- » Balances on one foot for 5-10 seconds
- » Strings beads
- » Cuts with scissors
- » Rides a tricycle
- » Walks up stairs with alternating feet
- » Buttons and unbuttons clothes

MENTALLY

- » Beginning to distinguish "real" from "not real"
- » May struggle to understand "truth" vs. "lie"
- » Still unable to take the point of view of others
- » Lives in the present; limited memory of past events
- » Learns by putting things into simple categories
- » Beginning to identify cause and effect

VERBALLY

- » Increasingly easier to understand
- » May struggle with some sounds: r, l, s, z, j, sh, ch, th
- » Says over 1,000 words (but who's really counting anymore)
- » Answers "what", "where", and "when" questions

EMOTIONALLY

- » May bite, scream, and throw tantrums (3 years)
- » Enjoys both physical humor and simple jokes
- » Can express basic emotions when asked
- » Can tell you what makes them happy or sad
- » May have nightmares or specific fears (fire, dark, monsters)
- » Responds to story-telling as a way to talk about feelings

PHASE:

A TIMEFRAME

IN A KID'S LIFE WHEN YOU CAN

LEVERAGE

DISTINCTIVE OPPORTUNITIES TO INFLUENCE

THEIR FUTURE



YOU HAVE 780 WEEKS AND COUNTING...

.....
IT'S JUST A
PHASE
SO DON'T MISS IT
.....



580 Brookwood Point Place • Simpsonville SC 29681
864.688.8200 • brookwoodchurch.org