



# *The Four-Year-Old Child's Speech and Language Development*

## At age four, your child....

- ❖ Points to colors red, blue, yellow, and green
- ❖ Identifies circles, squares, triangles, and crosses
- ❖ Follows commands even about objects that are not present ("Please get your shoes")
- ❖ Understands time concepts such as "early in the morning," "next month"
- ❖ Can talk about imaginary conditions like "suppose that" or "I hope"
- ❖ Asks **many** questions, although more interested in how the answers fit in with his/her own ideas than the actual explanation
- ❖ Has a sentence length of 4-5 words
- ❖ Uses "who?" and "why?" appropriately
- ❖ Begins to use complex sentences
- ❖ Uses contractions ("It's a dog." "There's a car.")
- ❖ Uses past tense correctly ("I colored the picture.")
- ❖ Copies a line and a circle
- ❖ Has a vocabulary of nearly 1500 words
- ❖ Uses the following sounds correctly: m, n, ng, p, f, h, w, y, k, b, d, g
- ❖ Stays interested in one activity for 11-12 minutes

## You can help promote your four-year-old child's speech & language by....

- ❖ Helping your child classify objects ("Let's talk about what kinds of things you can eat." "What kinds of things can you ride in?")
- ❖ Teaching your child how to use a telephone
- ❖ Asking your child to help you plan activities, such as what you will make for dinner
- ❖ Giving your child more responsibility (putting toys away, feeding pets, etc)
- ❖ Talking with your child as you would any other person (using adult vocabulary rather than baby talk)
- ❖ Reading longer stories to your child
- ❖ Letting your child make up and tell you stories
- ❖ Continuing to show how happy you are with your child's development in speech, language, and thought
- ❖ Not expecting perfection in the way he or she pronounces words

