

DEVELOPMENTAL MILESTONES FOR THREE TO FIVE YEAR OLDS

AT AGE 3, MOST CHILDREN:

SOCIAL/EMOTIONAL

- Follow simple directions
- Recognize own limits
- Are able to make choices
- Demonstrate caution
- Engage in parallel play

COGNITIVE/THINKING

- Understand most of what is said
- Speak in 3-5 word sentences
- Match pictures to objects
- Learn by doing
- Recognize cause/effect

COMMUNICATION

- Can tell a story
- Have sentence length of 4 words
- Know last name
- Use final consonants most of the time

MOTOR

- Walk up stairs
- Stand on one foot
- Unbutton large buttons
- Run around obstacles
- Stack objects
- Assemble puzzles
- Feed self

AT AGE 4, MOST

SOCIAL/EMOTIONAL

- Take turns, share, cooperate
- Express anger verbally, rather than physically
- Can feel jealousy
- Enjoy pretend/fantasy play with other children

- Separate from parent

COGNITIVE/THINKING

- Use approximately 1500 words
- Continue to learn through experiences
- Think literally
- Understand number/space concepts

COMMUNICATION

- Have a sentence length of 4-6 words
- Use past tense
- Identify color/shapes
- Ask many questions
- Have intelligible speech, some errors

MOTOR

- Catch, throw, bounce ball
- Brush teeth, comb hair
- Trace/copy a cross
- Grasp crayon
- Eat independently

AT AGE 5, MOST CHILDREN:

SOCIAL/EMOTIONAL

- Distinguish right/wrong
- Play make-believe/dress-up
- Mimic adults and seek praise
- Seek to play with peers
- Want to conform

COGNITIVE/THINKING

- Speak using plurals, pronouns, tenses
- Are very interested in words, seek knowledge
- Understand/name opposites
- Use complex language

COMMUNICATION

- Have a sentence length of 5-7 words
- Know spatial relations
- Know address
- Know right from left
- Use most consonant sounds
- Errors present in difficult blends

MOTOR

- Run in an adult manner
- Have a hand preference
- Lace shoes
- Copy square/triangle
- Print some letters
- Ride a tricycle

*If you feel your child is at risk,
call (318) 442-0085 and ask for the
Child Find Intake Secretary.*

What is Child Find....

Child Find is a part of the Special Education Pupil Appraisal Department based at J.B. Lafargue Special Education Center. Any individual, age 2 years 9 months to 21 years old who is not in public school, may be referred for a screening and then a possible evaluation, if he or she appears to be at risk with overall development in one or more of the following areas: cognitive skills, communication, motor, sensory (vision, hearing), or social emotional. **Referrals** can be made by the parent/guardian, doctor, or agency contacting the Child Find Coordinator. **An appointment** will be made for the parent and child to meet with a Social Worker, Adapted Physical Education Teacher, School Psychologist or Educational Diagnostician, Speech Pathologist, Occupational and/or Physical Therapist, Health Assessment as needed. **Upon completion of the assessment**, a written report will be reviewed and a copy given to the parent with specific recommendations to address any concerns that were noted about the child.

The parent or legal guardian is included in every step.

PROGRAMS

The Rapides Parish Special Education Department provides screening, evaluation, and services for the age group of 3 to 5 year olds through the Child Find Team.

The team is located at
J.B. Lafargue
4515 Eddie Williams Ave.
Alexandria, LA 71302

The classification of exceptionalities is determined by specific guidelines and criteria established in the Pupil Appraisal Handbook issued by the Louisiana State Department of Education.

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK:

The Special Education Department of the Rapides Parish School Board strongly believes that the early years of a child's life are very important. During the infant and toddler years, children grow quickly and have so much to learn. Some children and families face special challenges and need extra help. Early help does make a difference! Child Find is here to make that difference.

Child Find is a component of the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA) that requires states to locate and evaluate all children with disabilities, age 2 years, 9 months through 21 years, who are in need of early intervention or special education services.

This brochure will give you a description of the evaluation process and services that can be provided by the Child Find staff of professionals. We look forward to assisting your child during these important formative years.

**Vickie Smith
Director of Special Education
Rapides Parish School Board**

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**RAPIDES PARISH SCHOOL
BOARD**

**PROJECT
CHILD FIND**

**J. B. LAFARGUE
SPECIAL EDUCATION**

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*Clyde Washington
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