

Developmental Snapshot

4 to 5 years old



Ben can frequently be found putting the bristle blocks together or working with the pop beads. He likes to make a pop noise each time he puts something together or takes it apart. After doing this for a longer period of time he will get a sudden burst of energy and want to do relay races, each time with a new challenge such as running faster, hopping, or jumping. It is also really important to Ben to be a good friend. He greets his playmates when they arrive in the morning. He will invite people to join him in what he is doing. He also really likes to make sure everyone is following the rules and will tell his friends or an adult if someone isn't doing this or if they are doing something he doesn't like.

Becca loves how independent she is! She manages dressing tasks, loves to pour her own beverage, and has mastered zippers and buttons. She is working hard to get those shoe laces tied, but that is a little more challenging. Becca also loves to show her independence with craft activities. She doesn't want any help with cutting, using the tape dispenser, or getting materials out. She spends a lot of time drawing and writing and creating her own stories. She is able to put the letter of the object she is drawing, but then will ask how to spell the rest of the word. If someone is working on a project next to Becca she will ask lots of questions about what they are creating. She will also do this whenever you guys are out and about, trying to understand everything that is going on around her and why things happen.

Try this....

- Read everyday. Introduce short chapter books so the child can begin to explore more in-depth characters and plots.
- Provide lots of space and opportunities for exploring writing. This can be a struggle for some children so having markers, crayons, different width pencils, etc ensures each child can begin practicing this skill with the right materials. If a child is frustrated with writing provide other fine motor opportunities, puzzles, using tweezers to pick items up, painting on wall or easel with roller or big brush.
- Count, count, count. Sort, sort, sort. Make a game out of everything bringing in these basic math concepts.
- Pose big, open-ended questions. "What do you notice?" "What do you think is happening?" This can be during a nature walk, while at the store, while reading a book, after watching a tv show.