

A Parent's Checklist . . .

Please use this guide to check your child's progress in social, cognitive, language and physical development. If your child's development seems to be on schedule, keep this guide for future reference.

If you have any questions or concerns which may suggest the need for further screening, please call one of our specialists. When you call, please tell us about areas of concern according to the checklist in this guide. Also share any medical or developmental history which may be related. Are there behaviors which are of special concern at this time?

(414) 773-1080
Monday-Friday
8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Do you know a family with a three-year-old who did not receive this guide? Please encourage them to contact the Student Services office at (414) 773-1080 to be placed on the district census.

Mission Statement

*United with the parents
and the community,
the Wauwatosa School District
delivers an outstanding education
that equips and inspires our students
to conquer their challenges
now and in the future.*

Dear Parents of Three-year-olds,

As parents, you know how exciting it is to watch your child develop new skills.

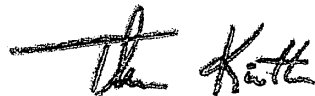
Wauwatosa educators believe that parents are in the best position to evaluate a child's early learning. You are your child's first and most important teacher.

This guide contains an outline of developmental levels most three-year-olds attain—what they can do.

We would like you to observe your child in the comfort of your home and other social settings and judge whether or not his/her development is generally on target. You may also want to talk with a child care provider, nursery school teacher or other individual with whom your child spends time.

If the skills listed in this guide describe your child's usual behavior, development is likely on schedule. However, if you have any questions in any area of development, you may want to discuss the need for further screening.

We want to help each child to experience success in school. Working together, we hope to achieve that goal.



Therese Kwiatkowski
Director of Student Services



Student Services Department
12121 W. North Ave.
Wauwatosa, WI 53226

Three years old...



A Guide for Parents in the Wauwatosa School District



Cognitive and Social Skills

Children develop at different rates in the various areas of growth. At three years of age many children are:

- Able to match some colors and are gaining skill in pointing to various colors when asked and, later, in naming them.
- Skilled at matching geometric shapes.
- Developing skill in counting (1, 2, 3, etc.) and beginning to count a small number of objects.
- Copying circles and horizontal or vertical lines demonstrated for them and progressing toward copying a cross.
- Beginning to sort objects by shape, color, size or use.
- Becoming able to concentrate, maintaining interest in a fun activity (block-building, playing house, TV program or videotape, etc.) for up to 30 minutes.
- Developing imaginative play (store, house, etc.) with other children, puppets or dolls.
- Able to play simple group games with some adult supervision.
- Telling a simple story by looking at the pictures in a book.
- Developing independence in managing toileting and hand-washing needs.
- Using language skills to express feelings and get along with others.
- Feeling more comfortable about being separated from parents and going into situations for which parents have prepared them.
- Enjoying new, independent skills (“I can do it!”).
- Interested in little children and caring toward younger sisters and brothers.

Speech and Language

Three-year-olds should be learning and demonstrating the following language skills:

- Tell their age and sex.
- Use three- to five-word sentences.
- Produce most sounds (with the exception of r, s, th and l).
- Speak so 80-90 percent of their words are understood by others.
- Tell a story or deliver a simple message.
- Engage in conversation with others.
- Use language to get someone’s attention.
- Ask and answer many questions (what, how, why)
- Use plurals.
- Use negation (can’t, won’t, don’t)
- Hear TV or music at same loudness as everyone else in family.
- Recite a nursery rhyme, song or poem from memory.
- Follow two requests given at the same time (“Get the book and put it on the table.”).



Physical Activities

Gross motor activities simply mean physical activities using the large muscles. By age three *most* children will:

- Walk up and down stairs without assistance.
- Jump off the bottom step or curb.
- Stand/hop on one foot.
- Ride a tricycle.
- Throw, catch or kick a ball to a partner.
- Climb on playground or park play structures.
- Walk and run in a smooth, coordinated fashion.

Fine motor skills involve use of the body’s small muscles. At three to three and a half years of age, *most* children have the following skills:

- Build a 10-block tower with small blocks.
- Cut paper in half.
- Manipulate small toys easily, such as construction toys, *Legos* or *Mr. Potato Head*.
- Take off loose-fitting clothing independently.
- Eat neatly, using a spoon, fork and cup.
- Enjoy different touch sensations, such as: playing in water, grass, sand; cuddling; *Play-doh*; and different food textures.
- Maintain eye contact frequently when spoken to and when speaking to others.
- Learn new tasks fairly easily (peddling a tricycle, using a new toy).

Registration

The Wauwatosa School District offers both junior (four-year-old) and senior (five-year-old) kindergartens.

To enter junior kindergarten in fall, a child must turn four on or before September 1. To enter senior kindergarten in fall, a child must turn five on or before September 1.

Registration for the upcoming school year takes place in February at neighborhood elementary schools.

Focused on the intellectual, social, emotional and physical development of the children, Wauwatosa’s kindergarten program provides a solid foundation for future learning.

For More Information

For information on which school your child will attend, call the Student Services office at (414) 773-1080. We also encourage you to schedule a visit to your neighborhood school.

District and school information can also be accessed by visiting the district website:

www.wauwatosaschools.org

