



A few ideas for helping your 3-4 year-old child

- Talk to your child... all the time. Discuss what you are doing, what they are doing, the things they like and why. Use adventurous vocabulary so that they learn new words.
- Read to your child EVERY DAY. Discuss the stories you read, linking them to your child's experiences and other stories they know. Read the books they like best over and over again.
- Sing lots of songs and nursery rhymes.
- Count, count, count... objects, steps you take, apples in the fruit dish, anything you can find!
- Play with coins - talk about the values, match them, count them.
- Help your child to learn colours and shapes by discussing the colours and shapes of things around you. Once they know green and blue, progress to turquoise, cream and other less common colours.
- Do some craft - practise painting, drawing, colouring, cutting, sticking etc.
- Get out on walks, exploring nature and discussing the things you see.
- Take some reasonable risks, for example, help your child to climb a climbing frame (or a tree), learn to use a scooter or a balance bike.
- Let your child see you writing for a reason - make a shopping list together, write a letter or a note. Then they will want to write.
- Help them hold a pencil properly and start to experiment with writing, making meaningful shapes such as straight lines or circles, before moving on to letters and numbers.
- Remind your child of how to wash and dry their hands and ensure that they are used to doing this before they eat, after they have been to the toilet, when they come in from outside..
- Do some cooking together.

Most importantly, HAVE FUN!