



## Characteristics of Fives

### Physical

Fives are learning to tie their own shoes, to cut with scissors successfully and to draw pictures that are recognizable to others. Girls move ahead of boys in development. Coordination has usually become excellent.

### Cognitive and Emotional

Fives are often able to write their own names, copy words and letters and may even read some words. Fives can talk accurately about recent events and speak understandably. They love to know why and love to discover for themselves through play and experimenting. They still love their teachers and need your approval. Encourage them to think by asking “what-could-happen-next” and “how-could-you-solve-this” kinds of open-ended questions.

### Social

Fives can play together for extended periods, usually with one or two others. They enjoy group activities and need to feel that they are seen and heard. Give attention before negative actions occur; otherwise, their need for attention may cause them to act in negative ways.

Give good eye contact, at eye level; be sure to use their names often in positive ways. Be sure to show you see, hear and love them!

### Spiritual

Fives can talk about the Bible story or Bible verse; some children will understand that being kind as Jesus was is something they can. Some (especially those from Christian homes) may be interested in becoming members of God’s family. Help them feel confident that God hears their prayers and that God wants to help them. As with all young children, they think literally and concretely. They cannot understand abstract ideas like “Jesus in my heart” or “born again.”

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**The most important way we teach young children about God’s love is to show them!** As we get on their level, listen to them, encourage them and make them feel secure, they begin to link God’s love with the joy, excitement and security they receive from their relationship with you.