



Characteristics of Threes

Physical

Threes are increasing in their small-muscle ability; they can unlace and remove shoes and unbutton clothing, draw pictures and name the people and items they draw. They build more complicated block structures and are usually completely potty trained. Threes enjoy stringing big beads, putting together simple puzzles and playing with dough, as well as singing songs and hearing simple stories. They may begin to use scissors (but not always well!).

Cognitive and Emotional

Threes may be able to write letters of their names and can usually identify colors and repeat simple rhymes and songs. Threes begin to imitate and pretend. They can wait for short periods of time and may show more sympathy for and interest in others than before.

Social

Threes may interact with other children more as they play, although sharing and taking turns are still not habitual. Get at their eye level to give good eye contact. Use their names often. Comment on what you see them doing, and thank them, describing how that behavior shows love or relates to the Bible verse. Be sure to show you see, hear and love them!

Spiritual

Threes can understand that Jesus was born as a baby and grew up to do kind things, that God is good and that Jesus loves us, and that the Bible tells us right ways to live. Threes understand God's love and nature more through your loving actions than through your spoken words.