



# THREE-YEAR-OLD AT A GLANCE

THINKS  
LIKE AN  
**ARTIST**



ENGAGE  
THEIR  
SENSES

WANTS TO  
KNOW  
**AM I OKAY?**



CULTIVATE  
THEIR  
SELF-CONTROL

IS  
MOTIVATED BY  
**SAFETY**



RESPOND  
CONSISTENTLY

May begin to name their own emotions like, "I'm happy."

Throws a ball overhead

May scream, throw tantrums, and show aggression

May struggle to understand "real" from "not real"

Balances on one foot for 5-10 seconds

Increasingly easier to understand

Strings beads and cuts with scissors (the plastic kind)

Unable to take the point of view of others

May struggle with some sounds: r, l, s, z, j, sh, ch, th

Enjoys both physical humor and simple jokes

Says over 1,000 words (but who's really counting anymore?)

Walks upstairs with alternating feet

Lives in the present; has a limited memory of past events

Learns by putting things into simple categories

Can express basic emotions when asked

Puts on shoes (Just don't try to correct them if they put the left on their right foot.)

Answers "what," "where," and "when" questions

Can tell you what makes them happy or sad

Sorts things and ideas into categories

Keeps a conversation going

**THREE**  
TO...

**FOUR**

**EMBRACE THEIR PHYSICAL NEEDS**