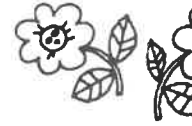




Speech and Language of the 4-Year-Old



At age 4 years, your child . . .



points to colors red, blue, yellow, and green



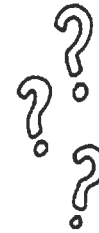
identifies crosses, triangles, circles, and squares



follows commands even though objects are not present

can speak of imaginary conditions such as "suppose that . . ." or "I hope . . ."

asks many questions but is more interested in how answers fit his or her own thoughts than in the explanation



uses sentences of 4 to 5 words

asks "who" and "why" questions

begins to combine sentences with *and*

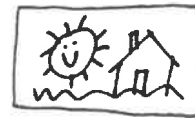
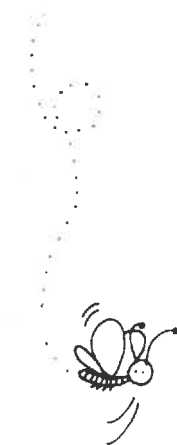
uses past tense correctly

copies a line and a circle

uses the following sounds correctly:

m, n, ng, p, f, h, w, y (as in yes), *k, b, d, g, t*

stays with one activity for 11 to 12 minutes

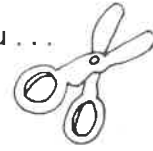


merrily johnson



u can stimulate your 4-year-old child's speech and language if you . . .

help your child classify objects and things, such as talking about what kinds of things you can ride in



teach your child correct use of a telephone

ask your child to help you plan activities such as what to prepare for Christmas dinner



use words indicating space and position as you play (for example, "Go *under* and *over* the coffee table, walk *in front of* and *behind* the chair, go *in* and *out of* the tunnel")

give your child more responsibility

talk with your child as you would any person

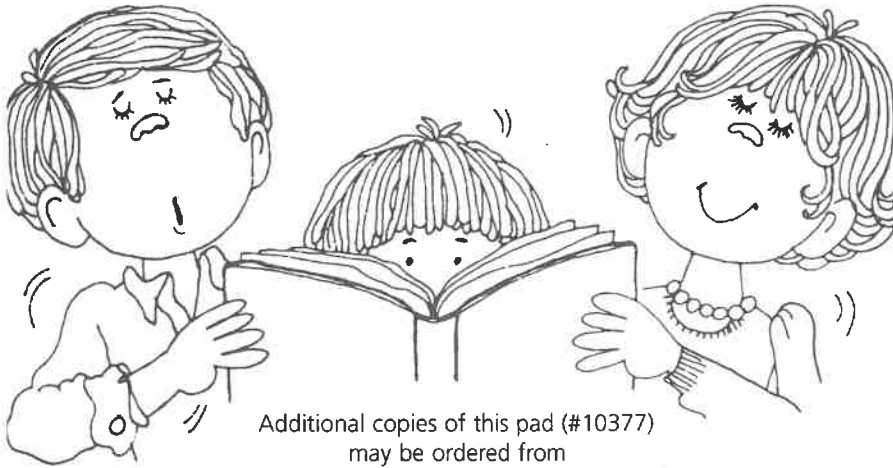
read longer stories to your child

let your child make up stories for you as you type them into the computer; let your child edit, if desired, and then illustrate the story



continue to show your pleasure at your child's development in speech, language, and thought

try not to expect absolute perfection in the way your child pronounces words



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