

## 2-3 Year Old Cognitive Milestones

2 year olds start thinking in new ways, learning new skills and finding new techniques to solve problems. By the end of this year, kids typically:

- Enjoy more complicated pretend play, like pretending that a box is a spaceship or assigning people characters when playing
- Remember and talk about things that happened in the past, using phrases like “the other day” or “a long time ago”
- Do three- to four-piece puzzles
- Group toys by type, size or color
- Recite favorite books and nursery rhymes with you
- May follow two-step directions, such as “take off your coat and hang it up”

## 3-4 Year Old Cognitive Milestones

This year, children start learning new things about the world. They often think of creative approaches to tasks and activities. By the end of this year, typical cognitive milestones include being able to do things like:

- Name the eight colors in a crayon box (red, yellow, blue, green, orange, purple, brown, black)
- Recite numbers to 10 and start counting groups of things
- Start understanding time in terms of morning, night and days of the week
- Remember and retell favorite stories
- Understand and talk about things that are the “same” and “different”
- Follow simple three-step directions (“Brush your teeth, wash your face and put on your pajamas.”)

## 4-5 Year Old Cognitive Milestones

This year, children’s ability to think and learn goes beyond the basics of the world around them. They start thinking about and understanding things they can’t see or touch; you might notice your child starts to become “an idea man.” Most children are developing skills to:

- Understand the difference between real and make-believe
- Understand that pictures and symbols stand for real things
- Explore relationships between ideas, using words like *if* and *when* to express them
- Start thinking in logical steps, which means seeing the “how-tos” and consequences of things
- Get abstract ideas like “bigger,” “less,” “later,” “ago” and “soon”
- Put things in order such as from biggest to smallest, shortest to tallest
- Stick with an activity for 10 to 15 minutes

## 5-6 Year Old Cognitive Milestones

Kindergartners learn facts and begin to grasp some basic concepts. By the end of kindergarten, many children can do things like these:

- Recognize and name colors and basic shapes
- Know the letters of the alphabet and letter sounds
- Recite their name, address and phone number
- Understand basic concepts about print (such as knowing which way the pages go and how words are read left to right and top to bottom)
- Know that stories have a beginning, middle and end
- Count groups of objects up to 10 and recite numbers to 20
- Stick with an activity for 15 minutes and finish a short project
- Make plans about how to play, what to build or what to draw