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Social Emotional and Fine Motor Milestones

4-5 Years

Social Emotional/ Sensory-Regulatory

- Constructs complex structures with blocks and other objects
- Participates in goal-oriented, cooperative play with two or three other children
- Participates in role play with other children
- Participates in planning a play activity
- Independent in toileting
- Enjoys clowning/silliness
- Sings whole songs
- Child explores beyond the his/her environment to discover new activities
- Makes up stories that involve role playing with other children

Fine Motor

- Begins to hold marker or pencil properly
- Cuts simple shapes (e.g., circle, square)
- Can connect dots with a straight line
- Colors within the lines most of the time
- Draws a person with a body
- Writes some letters; copies own name
- Uses 2 hands together well (e.g., one hand stabilizes object and the other hand is manipulating the object)
- Strings small beads
- Able to dress and undress self with assistance for fasteners
- Engages zipper on clothing on his/her own
- Fastens large buttons and unbuttons most buttons

Red Flags

- Crayon strokes are too light or too heavy
- Does not draw simple pictures (e.g., stick people)
- Does not show right or left handedness

***If your child does not meet most of these milestones by 5 years old, consider scheduling an occupational therapy evaluation.*