



Bright Futures Parent Handout

3 Year Visit

Here are some suggestions from Bright Futures experts that may be of value to your family.

ENCOURAGING LITERACY ACTIVITIES

Reading and Talking With Your Child

- Read books, sing songs, and play rhyming games with your child each day.
- Reading together and talking about a book's story and pictures helps your child learn how to read.
- Use books as a way to talk together.
- Look for ways to practice reading everywhere you go, such as stop signs or signs in the store.
- Ask your child questions about the story or pictures. Ask him to tell a part of the story.
- Ask your child to tell you about his day, friends, and activities.

PROMOTING PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

Your Active Child

Apart from sleeping, children should not be inactive for longer than 1 hour at a time.

- Be active together as a family.
- Limit TV, video, and video game time to no more than 1–2 hours each day.
- No TV in your child's bedroom.
- Keep your child from viewing shows and ads that may make her want things that are not healthy.
- Be sure your child is active at home and preschool or child care.
- Let us know if you need help getting your child enrolled in preschool or Head Start.

FAMILY SUPPORT

Family Support

- Take time for yourself and to be with your partner.
- Parents need to stay connected to friends, their personal interests, and work.
- Be aware that your parents might have different parenting styles than you.
- Give your child the chance to make choices.
- Show your child how to handle anger well—time alone, respectful talk, or being active. Stop hitting, biting, and fighting right away.
- Reinforce rules and encourage good behavior.
- Use time-outs or take away what's causing a problem.
- Have regular playtimes and mealtimes together as a family.

SAFETY

Safety

- Use a forward-facing car safety seat in the back seat of all vehicles.
- Switch to a belt-positioning booster seat when your child outgrows her forward-facing seat.
- Never leave your child alone in the car, house, or yard.
- Do not let young brothers and sisters watch over your child.
- Your child is too young to cross the street alone.
- Make sure there are operable window guards on every window on the second floor and higher. Move furniture away from windows.
- If you have a gun, store it unloaded and locked separately from the gun. Ask if there are guns in homes where your child plays. If so, make sure they are stored safely.
- Supervise play near streets and driveways.

PLAYING WITH PEERS

Playing With Others

Playing with other preschoolers helps get your child ready for school.

- Give your child a variety of toys for dress-up, make-believe, and imitation.
- Make sure your child has the chance to play often with other preschoolers.
- Help your child learn to take turns while playing games with other children.

What to Expect at Your Child's 4 Year Visit

We will talk about

- Getting ready for school
- Community involvement and safety
- Promoting physical activity and limiting TV time
- Keeping your child's teeth healthy
- Safety inside and outside
- How to be safe with adults

Poison Help: 1-800-222-1222

Child safety seat inspection:
1-866-SEATCHECK; seatcheck.org



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