

Well Check: 4 years

Children's physical skills develop far faster than their good judgment. Keep an eye on your children when they're playing, and protect them from dangerous situations like chasing a ball into the street.

Helping your child learn and grow

- **Help your child start to prepare for school.**
 - Read books together every day. Ask your child questions about the stories. Take your child to the library to choose books.
 - Help your child describe feelings. Praise your child for good behavior, and teach your child to apologize.
 - Make time for your child to play with others their age. Teach your child to take turns.
 - Consider enrolling your child in preschool or Head Start.
- **Help your child learn good sleep habits.** Your child needs 10 to 13 hours of sleep each day.
- **Create daily routines at home.**
 - Eat meals together as a family whenever possible and without distractions.
 - Have quiet bedtime routines, and put your child to bed at about the same time every night.
 - Have all members of the family follow the house rules.

Feeding your child

- At this age, children should be eating the same foods as the rest of the family.
- **Model healthy eating habits.** Offer a variety of fruits, vegetables, and grains for your child to choose from. Avoid unhealthy junk food and fast food.
- If you're concerned about your child's weight or eating habits, ask your doctor for advice.



(Milestone) At 4 years old, most children:

- Play well with other children and would rather play with other children than alone.
- Talk about the things they're interested in and tell stories.
- Can catch a bounced ball, hop, and stand on one foot for several seconds.
- Can name the colors and some numbers.
- Can draw a person with 2 to 4 body parts.
- Can say their name and address.

Your child will reach milestones at their own pace. For detailed information about milestones, visit [cdc.gov/actearly](https://www.cdc.gov/actearly), or call 1-800-CDC-INFO.

Keeping your child active

- **Limit screen time.** Establish rules to limit media use and create a media plan for your family at: [healthychildren.org/MediaUsePlan](https://www.healthychildren.org/MediaUsePlan)
- **Be active.** Except when sleeping, your child should not be inactive for more than an hour at a time.

Keeping your child safe and well

- **Make sure your child gets recommended immunizations on schedule.**
- **Be safe at home and other places.**
 - Make sure a responsible adult is always looking after your child while in your home, yard, garage, or on a playground.
 - Have your child cross the street only with a responsible person.
 - Watch closely when your child is near water. Teach your child how to swim. Make sure pools have locked fences around them and play pools are emptied after use.
 - Make sure your child wears a helmet while riding a bike or scooter, skating, skiing, or snowboarding. Wear your helmet as an example.
 - Put a hat and sunscreen on your child before going out in the sun.
 - Teach your child to ask the owner if it's okay before petting a dog.
 - Lock up medicines, poisons, chemicals, cigarettes, lighters, and alcohol. If there is a gun in any house that your child visits, make sure it's locked up at all times.
- **Be safe in and around cars.**
 - When your child reaches the weight or height limit for their car seat, switch to a belt-positioning booster seat.
 - Your child needs to ride in the back seat of the car until age 12.
 - Make sure everyone in the car wears seat belts.
 - **Never leave your child alone in a car.**
- **Teach your child to be safe with other adults.**
 - No adult should ever ask your child to keep a secret from you. No one should ask to see your child's private parts. Teach your child the correct names for their private parts.

- Teach your child to tell a trusted adult if anyone makes them feel uncomfortable.
- If you or your child feel unsafe, our office can help you find someone who can help.

- **Help build healthy teeth-cleaning habits.**
 - Help your child brush their teeth after breakfast and before bed using a pea-sized amount of toothpaste.
 - Visit the dentist every 6 months.
 - Give your child water instead of juice to drink. Juice has a lot of sugar, which is bad for teeth.



My follow-up appointment

Your next well-child visit will be when your child is 5 years old.

Date: _____ Time: _____

Here are helpful resources in the meantime:



[IntermountainMoms Facebook page](#)



For more age-appropriate safety information, visit safekids.org and sign up for the monthly newsletter.



If you need help with housing, food, or if you feel unsafe at home, call 2-1-1, or visit 211ut.org for community services.



When should I call?

If you think your child may have eaten poisons, medicines, or cleaning supplies, call Poison Control immediately at 1-800-222-1222.

This is general information that applies to most families. If your doctor tells you something different, follow what your doctor says.

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