

# Skills & Activities Checklist

(Covers Ages 2-5 Years)





Technical Details:

©The Gentle, Classical Press, Inc 2021, GentleClassical.com,  
LifeAbundantlyblog.com, ShopGentleClassical.com  
All Rights Reserved.

Please never alter, resale, redistribute, or otherwise transfer ownership  
of anything you receive or download from LifeAbundantlyBlog.com or The  
Gentle, Classical Press, Inc.

Graphics purchased via CreativeMarket.com and DesignBundles.net for  
commerical use or via Open Domain.

FREE TO PRINT UNLIMITED COPIES FOR PERSONAL, HOME USE.

# Hi Friend!

If you've ever wondered if what your child is doing is "normal" for their age, you certainly aren't alone. When it comes to speech, reading, motor skills, math skills, and artistic abilities, we all crave for our child not to struggle. We can also wonder what chores they may be ready for, how they can help in the kitchen, and what handicrafts are appropriate for their age.

This quick overview of skills by age is in no way comprehensive. It has been pulled from a litany of resources and filtered through my "been there, done that" perspective. Remember that GRACE is present in these lists. They are certainly no Bible and should not be regarded as such. ALL children are asynchronous in one way or another, and some in larger degrees. However, not being "on level" in any of these areas is nothing to be concerned about, unless you're concerned. And if you are, please see your pediatrician for any type of evaluation you feel like may be necessary. But please don't allow fear of "being behind" to ruin your peace and joy in early home education and parenting. ENJOY your child, right where he or she is.

If you're interested in developing any of these skills with your little one with intentionality and structure, please download the FREE Teacher's guides for the leveled programs available at [GentleClassical.com](http://GentleClassical.com).



In Christ,  
Erin

# 2 Years

- Fold kitchen towels and bath cloths
- Very messily trace with pencil, crayon, or marker
- Beginner scissor skills, with random, jagged, incomplete cuts
- Hand development is not conducive to proper pencil grip
- Might notice letters and numbers as meaningful, but may not
- Can repeat 1-4 word statements after you
- Learns best when moving and with hands-on activities
- Can begin lacing activities
- Can build with larger (Duplo) blocks
- Thrives on open ended play

## In the Kitchen:

- Can dump ingredients into a large bowl
- Can assist in stirring
- Can carry and gather ingredients

## Art:

- Best suited to "process art"
- Sensory bins
- Finger painting

## Handicrafts:

- Lacing
- Stamping
- Gardening
- Working with playdough
- Gluing projects

# 3 Years

- Can help put away laundry
- Can help sweep small spills
- Can clean messy room with guidance
- Traces letters or shapes loosely
- Recognizes letters as "significant" and may notice them in their environment
- Likely doesn't know many (or any) letter names, sounds, or numbers
- Can identify several colors and basic shapes
- Can count to 5
- Can wash hands with help
- Can begin to put on shoes, pants, and shirt with help
- Can assist in bathing self
- Can follow 2-step instructions
- Can be understood by family and other patient listeners
- Completes potty-training
- Can feed self
- Can repeat 3-5 word statements
- Is becoming less clumsy, can run well, can jump with both feet
- Can use scissors to cut rough, jagged lines
- Scribbles to color, predominantly in one color, with no regard for lines
- Most drawings are random scribbling but maybe begin drawing simplified stick figures
- Imaginative and independent play are rapidly developing
- Can answer questions about a story and retell (or play retell) portions of the story
- Makes up stories
- May develop a defiant streak and seek independence fervently
- Knows first and last name, age, and parents names (if taught)
- Understands the concept of "our family"

## In the Kitchen:

- Slightly more helpful than a 2yr old
- Can stir more thoroughly
- Can help scoop ingredients

## Art:

- Beginning scissor use  
(with guidance)
- Painting with a brush  
(washable paints)
- Plenty of process art still

## Handicrafts:

- Weaving with large looms  
and materials
- Bead-lacing
- May be able to begin simple  
stitching (whip-stitch)

# 4 Years

- Can hang clothes in closet
- Can make bed
- Can clean a messy room with guidance
- Can dust baseboards
- Can trace letters and shapes with a fair amount of accuracy
- Can trace name and spell name
- May be able to write name independently
- Can count to 10
- Can mostly dress self and put on shoes (socks may still be a problem)
- Can identify most shapes and colors (though this can vary day-to-day)
- Understands that letters have name and sounds
- May know very few or very many letter names or sounds (this varies wildly)
- Can learn the days of the week and months of the years
- Can be fully understood by most everyone (unless they are in speech)
- Can brush teeth with guidance
- Can bathe body
- Can repeat 4-6 word statements
- Can follow 3-step directions
- Is beginning to use scissors with some confidence - still jagged cutting
- Can calculate small sums
- Can identify most numbers 1-10
- Can retell stories in detail, especially while acting it out or using props
- May begin to tell lies
- Can kick a ball, stand on one foot, and climb jungle gyms
- Knows full name, entire family's name, country, city, and state
- Drawings will typically be repetitive and may include stick figures with head, body, and limbs (but varies widely)
- Drawings likely include some shapes and random letters or "words" they've "sounded out"
- Coloring is still usually in just a few shades and may still disregard lines
- Proper tri-pod grip is mostly established
- Is developing the ability to rhyme

## In the Kitchen:

- Can stir with confidence
- Can pour ingredients
- Can chop easy-to-cut items with a child-safe knife
- Can cut cookies with cookie cutter
- Can ice pastries

## Art:

- Continuing improvement with scissor skills, tracing, coloring
- Can "replicate" art that is studied
- Plenty of process art opportunities is still important

## Handicrafts:

- Simple sewing or embroidery on burlap with dots for guidance of needle placement
- Wet felting
- Beeswax candle rolling

# 5 Years

- Can run a lightweight vacuum
- Can clean a room mostly independently
  - Can set the table
  - Can push/carry laundry baskets
  - Can help with younger siblings
  - Can write name independently
  - Readily identify rhyming words
- Can break words into syllables (with assistance)
  - Can isolate beginning sounds
- Likely knows most of the alphabet by letter name or sound (or may not - this depends on instruction)
  - May pretend to read aloud
- May be able read CVC and some sight words
  - Can count to 20
- Understands 1-to-1 correspondence
  - Can count items to 20
  - Understand opposites
  - Can dress self
- Can operate simple electronics independently (if this is something your family has/does)
  - Knows street address and parent's phone number
- Can fully dress self except for possibly buttons or tying shoes
  - Can handle personal hygiene with guidance and supervision
  - Can hop on one foot, skip, and jump
  - Plays imaginatively frequently
- Can retell stories with great depth and detail
  - May embellish retellings and add creative additions

## In the Kitchen:

- Can chop easy-to-cut items with a child-safe knife
- Can scramble eggs with supervision
- Can make toast and butter bread

## Art:

- Continuing improvement with scissor skills, tracing, coloring
- Can "replicate" art that is studied
- Plenty of process art opportunities is still important

## Handicrafts:

- Can likely do 1-2 stitches in sewing
- Can begin finger-knitting
- May be able to thread a needle
- Will stick with longer, more intense projects