Speech and Language Of The Four Year Old

___Groups objects such as foods, clothes, etc.

___Identifies colors red, blue, yellow and green.

___Uses most speech sounds but may distort some of the more difficult sounds such as l, r, s, sh, ch, y, v, z, th. These sounds may not be fully mastered until age 7 or 8.

___Uses consonants in the beginning, middle and ends of words. Some of the more difficult consonants may be distorted, but attempts to say them.

___Strangers are able to understand much of what is said.

___Able to describe the use of objects such as “fork,” “car,” etc.

___Has fun with language. Enjoys poems and recognizes language absurdities such as, “Is that an elephant on your head?”

___Expresses ideas and feelings rather than just talking about the world around him or her.

___Uses verbs that end in “ing,” such as “walking,” “taking.”

___Answers simple questions such as “What do you do when you are hungry?”

___Identifies crosses, triangles, circles and squares by name.

___Understands “early in the morning,” “next month,” “next year,” “noon time.”

___Can speak of imaginary conditions such as “suppose that” or “I hope.”

___Asks MANY questions although more interested in how answers fit his/her own thoughts rather than just the explanation.

___Has a sentence length of 4-5 words.

___Asks “who?” and “why?”

___Begins to use complex sentences.
____Uses contractions such as “it’s a” or “there’s a.”

____Uses regular past tense correctly such as “walked” “talked”.

____Uses the following sounds correctly: m, n. ng. p, f, h, w, y, k, b, d, g.

____Stays with one activity 11-12 minutes.

The Four to Five Year Old

____Understands spatial concepts such as behind, in front, next to, over, under and between.

____Understands complex questions.

____Speech is understandable but makes mistakes pronouncing long, difficult or complex words such as “hippopotamus.”

____Uses some irregular past tense verbs such as “ran,” “fell.”

____Describes how to do things such as painting a picture.

____Defines words.

____Lists items that belong in a category such as animals, vehicles, etc.

____Answers “why” questions.