

Authentic Faith

This year you will **incite wonder** so your child will know God's love and meet God's family.

Your four-year-old has many questions. Some might be about creation, heaven, church, and the Bible... and some of their questions might already be hard to answer.

Don't panic. Just like other topics, answer faith questions as simply as possible. If they need to ask more, they will.

Say things like...

Can you help me carry these socks?

Prompt them to help.

Isn't it wonderful?
Let's thank God for it.

Was Daniel afraid when he was thrown into the lion's den?

Talk about what your preschooler learns at church.

Parent Cue Times



Morning Time

Set the mood for the day. Smile. Greet them with words of love.



Drive Time

Reinforce simple ideas. Talk to your toddler and play music as you go.



Cuddle Time

Be personal. Spend one-on-one time that communicates love and affection.



Bath Time

Wind down together. Provide comfort as the day draws to a close.

PHASE SUMMARY

85

Four-Year-Old

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The phase when anything can be imagined, everything can be a game, and one curious preschooler wants to know, **“Why?”**

Imagination is reality.

Your four-year-old's delightful imagination may suddenly turn your bedroom into a train station, a castle, or both. But imagination may also turn deceptive. Your four-year-old may suddenly insist the cat ate her cupcake, her bed somehow got wet from the rain, and maybe it was Grandma who spilled nail polish on the furniture.

Everything can be a game.

You motivate your preschooler best when you appeal to their desire to play. Whatever the task, turn it into a game; make it fun. You might even let them take the lead and create a game you both can play. Your four-year-old is wired to have fun with you.

They have a newfound curiosity.

Whether it's showcased by pouring all the dish soap into the sink at once, or the constant repetition of "Why? Why? Why?," your preschooler is eager to know how the world works. So when they ask you "Why?" for the second and third time, remember they're just looking for more of the knowledge they know you must have as an adult person.



**It's just a phase,
so don't miss it.**

In the Four-Year-Old phase, your role is to embrace their physical needs.

Life for your four-year-old can be confusing. It's okay to throw a ball, but not a rock. You can hug your friend, but not squeeze his neck. Your four-year-old is learning the rules for life and encountering some necessary discipline. The way you consistently meet their needs, engage their senses, and provide discipline will help them develop self-control.



**Preschoolers think
like an artist.**

You help them learn
when you...
engage their senses.



**Preschoolers want to
know, "Am I okay?"**

You capture their heart
when you...
cultivate their
self-control.



**Preschoolers are
motivated by safety.**

You coach them
when you...
discipline consistently.