

refined physical and cognitive development. By 4 or 5 years old, they need little if any assistance with dressing, eating, or toileting (Fig. 12-3). They can also be trusted to obey warnings of danger; however, 3- or 4-year-old children may exceed their boundaries at times.



FIG 12-3 Most preschoolers are able to dress themselves but need help with more difficult items of clothing.

Preschoolers are also much more sociable and willing to please. They have internalized many of the standards and values of the family and culture. However, by the end of early childhood, they begin to question parental values and compare them with those of their peer group and other authority figures. As a result, they may be less willing to abide by the family's code of conduct. Preschoolers become increasingly aware of their position and role within the family. Although this is a more secure age for experiencing the addition of another sibling, relinquishing the position of first or youngest is still difficult and requires