

why danger exists and how to avoid it.

Family-Centered Care

Guidance During Preschool Years

3 Years Old

Prepare parents for child's increasing interest in widening relationships.

Encourage enrollment in preschool.

Emphasize importance of setting limits.

Prepare parents to expect exaggerated tension-reduction behaviors, such as need for a “security blanket.”

Encourage parents to offer child choices.

Prepare parents to expect marked changes at $3\frac{1}{2}$ years old when child becomes insecure and exhibits emotional extremes.

Prepare parents for normal dysfluency in speech and advise them to avoid focusing on the pattern.

Prepare parents to expect extra demands on their attention as a reflection of child's emotional insecurity and fear of loss of love.

Warn parents that the equilibrium of a 3-year-old child will change to the aggressive, out-of-bounds behavior of a 4-year-old child.

Inform parents to anticipate a more stable appetite with more food selections.

Stress need for protection and education of child to prevent injury (see [Safety Promotion and Injury Prevention, Chapter 11](#)).

4 Years Old

Prepare parents for more aggressive behavior, including motor