

Is your child smart for his age?

by Lester David

Here's an illustrated test, adapted from expert studies, that makes a game out of determining your youngster's basic intelligence

LIKE MOST parents, you probably want to know if your youngster is smart for his age. Here's a way to find out.

The following is a simple test for three different age groups based on recent studies of leading child-development authorities. Each test consists of three activities which the average youngster in that age group should be able to perform.

In offering some tips on how to give the test, A. D. Buchmueller, executive director of the Child Study Association, says, "Conduct the test in a 'having-lots-of-fun' spirit. Be gentle with the child, and if he doesn't feel like playing don't push the matter. Consider the tests an interesting game to get some idea of how your youngster is

doing, and not as a true index of basic intelligence. Some children develop faster than others. They usually catch up to each other in time."

If the kids flunk these age tests, don't worry unless they seem slow in other ways, too. In that case, it would be wise to have the advice of a psychologist or guidance expert.

(Sources for questions include "Textbook of Pediatrics" by Drs. Albert G. Mitchell and Waldo E. Nelson, and "Developmental Diagnosis" by Dr. Arnold L. Gesell of the Gesell Institute of Child Development in New Haven, Conn., in association with Dr. Catherine S. Amatruda. Questions were also adapted from tests used by Dr. E. Robins Kimball of the Northwestern University school of medicine.)

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4 months

Tie a pencil on a string and dangle it before him. He'll make some effort to reach it.

Watch and you'll find that he can bring his hands together across his middle.

Roll a marble or small ball across a table. He'll watch its progress with his eyes.

