Older Preschoolers

Play and Exploration	**Children engage in play to understand the world around them.** 1 Engage solidly in “solitary”, “parallel”, “associative” and “cooperative play” (e.g., play that involves engagement, negotiation and pre-planning) 2 Engage in sustained play episodes (e.g., stays in a dramatic play role like “the baby”) 3 Practice concepts through play (e.g., emergent writing: restaurant menu, geometry: naming the block shapes used in building a garage) 4 Play basic games with rules
Initiative	**Children show curiosity about the world around them and take action to interact with it and learn.** 1 Demonstrate flexibility, imagination and inventiveness in approaching task and activities through play 2 Explore and discuss a range of topics, ideas and tasks 3 Attempt to master new skills (e.g., riding a bike) 4 Ask questions to find out about future events
Problem Solving	**Children display an interest in novel situations and demonstrate flexibility, creativity and innovation in solving challenging tasks.** 1 Use imagination and creativity to interact with objects and materials 2 Uses a new skill in a variety of contexts 3 Engage in learning through attempting, repeating, experimenting, refining, and elaborating on experiences and activities 4 Demonstrate appropriate solutions to simple problems