

4th Grade Developmental Guide

What's Going on With My 4th Grader?

The 4th grade year is a year of self-discovery and learning how to research for themselves. At this point, your 4th grader is solidifying their study habits and wish to help their teachers in any capacity. They want to be seen as leaders and will begin to initiate themselves more into adult conversations and ask questions.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

- ♦ Gross motor skills almost fully developed
- ♦ Understands the importance of hygiene and washing hands.
- ♦ May need to be reminded to keep up good oral hygiene since they now have adult teeth.
- ♦ Girls may begin their menstrual cycle at this age.
- ♦ Balance will continue to improve significantly throughout the year.
- ♦ He or she should be able to combine different kinds of movements with ease.
- ♦ Have fully developed their writing skills.

EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The 4th Grader may:

- ♦ Be able to identify his or her emotions while also explaining why he or she feels that way and what might he like to change about that response.
- ♦ Be able to identify his strengths and weaknesses and understand how they affect the choices he or she makes.
- ♦ Have an idea of possible consequences due to his or her actions.
- ♦ Can carry out ways or routine to handle upsetting emotions.

RELATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- ◆ Understands and becomes more involved in conversations in social settings.
- ◆ Not afraid to approach adults and initiate conversations.
- ◆ An increase interest in peer relationships, while a natural part of growing up and a positive expansion of his or her world, can also have negative consequences, including a great possibility of being bullied, excluded and cause conflict.
- ◆ Eager to help and be seen as a “mentor” or put in a more leadership role in big group settings.
- ◆ Becomes more perceptive about the world around him or her and learning how to use her social skills to establish and maintain positive relationships.
- ◆ Seen as loyal to friends but questions the rules in the home. He or she questions not to offend, but is testing newfound skills and understanding in what they feel is a safe setting. They sense comfort in being able to ask their parent questions.
- ◆ Discovering the importance of listening actively, respecting diverse perspectives and resolving conflicts effectively. Due to this, he or she may have just a few friends or even one friend.
- ◆ Can be hard on themselves when making mistakes and may shift the blame when there is conflict, to not appear directly involved.

SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

- ◆ Are developing their conscience- a personal sense of right and wrong. He or she may seem critical of adults who appear to be insincere in their faith.
- ◆ Attempt to deal with moral questions in terms of motives as well as consequences.
- ◆ Show an increase of concern for the homeless, hungry or poor.
- ◆ Understands why we pray.
- ◆ Are more inclined to look within themselves for answers rather than younger children in regards to having a commitment to Christ.