

Characteristics of Children

	1st & 2nd Graders	3rd & 4th Graders	5th & 6th Graders
Physical	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is developing small muscle control • Is developing eye-hand coordination • Is active and has difficulty sitting still for long periods of time • Tires easily • Uses entire body to learn • Likes all kinds of games • Likes using her hands • Enjoys creative play 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has slow, steady growth and good muscle coordination • Has good eye-hand coordination • Is enthusiastic and may have trouble calming down • Girls are growing more quickly than boys • Can work for longer periods of time • Needs to be able to let off steam 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has good coordination and small muscle skills • Is beginning puberty, girls usually ahead of boys • Can be noisy and boisterous • Enjoys competition & likes to win • Is motivated by own interests • Likes to use abundant energy and physical skills
Mental	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has limited ability to think abstractly • Fears imaginary creatures/people • Can follow specific instructions • Has limited attention span • Has good memory • Can get deeply absorbed in activities • Has a need to succeed • Can find some verses in the Bible 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beginning to think abstractly • Is eager to learn • Likes to experiment and find out how things are made/work • Wants to do things the right way and may feel ashamed when wrong • Is able to excel in Bible skill activities • May have difficulty making decisions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Growing in ability to think abstractly • Thinks quickly and memorizes easily • Can think for herself and solve problems • Can concentrate when interested • Is imaginative, creative, and curious • Can cope with success & failure • Learns through various experiences
Social/	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is moving toward independence, but still needs frequent assurance • Is sensitive to what others think and desires approval • Cries easily when scolded • May avoid new situations • Uses own experiences to understand others • Can be self centered 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enjoys being with friends • May express dislike of children of the opposite sex • Likes to express himself • Dislikes being treated as a “baby” • Will accept carefully worded criticism • Eager to please, wants to be liked • Changes moods quickly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Needs approval of peers; likes acceptance; enjoys companionship • Can be sensitive to others • Will take a stand contrary to family or friends • May argue a lot • Are beginning to be interested in the opposite sex • Experiences extremes of emotions
Spiritual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sees Jesus as a friend and helper • Enjoys praying • Likes learning from the Bible • Is making conclusions about God • Is interested in God’s world/nature • Is beginning to understand truth & honesty, right from wrong 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is becoming conscious of self & sin • Is developing values • Can see things in terms of right and wrong more than good and bad • Asks serious questions about religion • May be beginning to feel the need to accept Jesus as Savior 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has concepts of love and trust • Is ready for spiritual answers and direction in developing a value system • Is learning limits of behavior • Can experience conviction of the Holy Spirit