

Characteristics of a Third Grade Student

Though children will vary greatly from one to the next, the following general characteristics of children 8-9 years old may help you to understand their behavior and development.

Physical

- ◆ growth rate slows down but is steady
- ◆ because they are energetic but often restless, they will be able to work longer on projects of interest to them but may become impatient with delays or inability to accomplish things quickly
- ◆ becoming more independent
- ◆ developing small muscle control – girls are typically ahead of boys in this development

Mental

- ◆ careful observer – likes to see how things work
- ◆ curious and full of questions
- ◆ enjoys looking up information and discovering answers
- ◆ strong imagination and creative skills
- ◆ concrete and literal thinking, but beginning abstract thought

Social

- ◆ usually very friendly towards others
- ◆ relates quite well with others and enjoys group activities
- ◆ seeks group approval with peers but also likes having a special friend
- ◆ competitive, with a strong sense of fairness

Emotional

- ◆ sympathetic towards others
- ◆ torn between the need to be a child and the desire to be grown up
- ◆ wants approval and may feel insecure and worried
- ◆ may have difficulty expressing feelings when troubled about something

Spiritual

- ◆ seeks love, security, and assurance
- ◆ thinks of God as a friend and companion
- ◆ needs to hear truths repeated and explained
- ◆ concerned about right and wrong
- ◆ learning personal responsibility for actions