

Characteristics of a Fourth Grade Student

The nine-year-old or ten-year-old is no longer a young child but is not yet capable of abstract thinking of older children. This age level student is generally active, lively, and interested. Some general characteristics are listed below:

Physical

- ♦ Energetic, on the move, likes to do things, likes action and action stories. Direct their energy by participation in classroom activities.

Mental/Emotional

- ♦ Heroes are important to them, but they need help from parents and teachers in discerning good heroes and heroes that are in harmony with God's principles for living.
- ♦ This child doesn't always want or need directions and sometimes wants to take charge.
- ♦ Talking and giggling are common.
- ♦ Thinks more carefully but still in concrete terms. He can think back in time, likes facts and events, and can begin to put them in sequence. The teacher should use charts, maps, activities, and extra reading with this age group. Take advantage of their active bodies and minds in positive activities.
- ♦ Capable of significant Scripture memorization. Help them establish good, lifelong habits of memorizing Scripture. Teach the meaning and practical application of verses they memorize. Keep the following points in mind if using rewards with memorization:
 - rewards should be given for a job well done.
 - all rewards should be within reach of everyone, even if it takes longer to achieve it. If only the first one to memorize a verse or larger portion of Scripture receives the prize, the others may quit, and the purpose for memorization is lost.

Social

- ♦ Like to have a special friend but also need acceptance by the group. It is important that parents and teachers guide and instruct children in being kind, considerate, and forgiving toward other people. Do not accept teasing and making fun of others.
- ♦ Generally, likes being with a group and group activities, so use this wisely in contests, memory work, attendance, etc.
- ♦ Strong sense of justice, so be firm, fair, caring, and consistent.
- ♦ Praise them. Do not criticize.

Spiritual

- ♦ Recognize sin as sin in stories, but it is harder for them to see their own fault. Give them help in making practical applications to their own lives.
- ♦ Interested in spiritual things and responsive to the Gospel.
- ♦ God is becoming more real to them as a person, for now they can connect Him with real people, places, and events.
- ♦ Gaining deeper understanding of many spiritual concepts they can understand and are also able in a limited degree to grapple with some abstract ideas if they are carefully taught. They can understand:

- God is almighty, wise, omnipresent
- God is creator
- God the Holy Spirit is a person who indwells the believer
- Jesus is the Son of God, the Savior
- The salvation message
- The Bible is the true Word of God
- Satan is an evil, fallen angel who tempts Christians
- There are good angels
- Heaven is a place prepared for Christians