

# Second and Third Graders



Ages  
7-8

I'm a second/third grader. Welcome to my world! I'm gaining competence and confidence. I want life to be fair and rules are important. I enjoy doing real-life tasks. Walk with me and see what I'm learning and what I like to do!

“Give me the children until they are seven, and anyone may have them afterwards.”

*St. Francis Xavier*

“Each day of our lives we make deposits in the memory banks of our children.”

*Charles R. Swindoll*

“In the final analysis it is not what you do for your children but what you have taught them to do for themselves that will make them successful human beings.”

*Ann Landers*

## Thought You'd Like to Know



- I have mastered large muscle skills and my fine motor skills are increasing.
- I enjoy testing muscle strength, balance and skills.
- I am often dramatic and descriptive with gestures.
- I prefer pencils and erasers over crayons.
- My baby teeth are being replaced with permanent teeth.
- Us girls develop faster than boys, especially in small motor skills.



- I talk like I know everything.
- I am impatient—especially with myself.
- I love praise and am sensitive to blame.
- I'm beginning to develop a sense of humor. Just listen to or tell me knock-knock jokes.
- I can usually accept constructive criticism.
- I am feeling more independent, and can go to a friend's by myself if my parents let me.
- My emotions are visible.
- Even though I sometimes cry over “little” things, I prefer not to be seen crying.



- I like to win. I'm competitive.
- I am beginning to cooperate and work well together in a group.
- Teachers and leaders are increasingly less important than my peers.
- I am able to think less about myself and reach out to others.
- Girls and boys prefer playing with children of the same gender.





- I am more verbal and able to express my thoughts and feelings. I exaggerate, boast, tell tall tales.
- I am beginning to reason logically in a concrete manner.
- I like to work for an immediate reward.
- I read short stories, non-fiction and fiction.
- I can write one to three paragraphs and short stories.
- I can do addition/subtraction easily.
- I am beginning to learn multiplication/division.
- I have an increased ability to solve problems.
- I am learning about other communities, both local and global.
- I have a longer attention span.
- I understand cause and effect.
- I am beginning to understand symbols and their meanings.



- Listen to my questions, give honest answers and assure me of God's love.
- I ask increasing questions about the Bible, God and heaven. How can God be everywhere and see everything? How does God answer everyone's prayers?
- I enjoy hearing and learning Bible stories.
- I accept that God made everything.
- I am learning: God wants me to grow and become like Jesus. I can trust God. God wants me to develop my talents. God is all-powerful. I can pray anytime, anywhere and about anything.
- I experience God's love through friends, teachers and leaders in my community and church.
- I understand more deeply what it means to be in a relationship with Jesus.
- I am beginning to see inconsistency between people's actions and words.

"Moral intelligence means how we behave. It's moral behavior tested by life, lived out in the course of our everyday experience. We live out what we presumably want taught to our children. They are taking constant notice and measuring us not by what we say but what we do."

**Robert Coles**

## Spending Time Together

- Pay attention to what I enjoy talking about, listening to, doing and playing. Engage with me in those activities.
- Doing hobbies or collections (stamps, coins, shells), making jewelry, photography, woodworking, crafts and building models gives me a feeling of accomplishment and builds my self-confidence.
- I like to learn about riddles, tricks and card games.
- I enjoy playing non-competitive games.
- Take me to interactive museums, parks, neighborhoods and cities. This helps me understand the world around me.
- Be specific when affirming me for something I do well or when you see me doing something diligently.

**Favorite Activities:** play video games; listen to music; collect things; read; write; draw; soccer; football; jump rope; four square; tether ball; gymnastics; dancing; spend time with friends; problem solving; puzzles; real-life tasks; cook; copy designs and shapes; tumbling; puppet shows; acting out stories; games (dominoes, tic-tac-toe, yo-yo).

## What I Really Need

- Give me ongoing encouragement that I have the capacity to learn
- Give me opportunities to explore and discover things I can do alone and with others.
- Continue to give me experiences and help me notice things I enjoy doing. Tell me when I do something well.
- Share your faith stories with me. They help me form and shape my beliefs, values and behaviors.
- Model and teach me to give, save and spend money in a God-honoring way.
- Give me chores. They let me know I have something to contribute and am part of the family. They teach me responsibility and give me skills for a lifetime.

## Key People In My Life

- Parents
- Grandparents
- Siblings
- Teachers
- Extended family

Note: The development and behavior of seven and eight year olds will vary based on physical maturity, culture, environment, education, and the amount of experiences and interactions with adults and other children.

  
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