

Fourth and Fifth Graders



Ages
9-10

I'm a fourth/fifth grader. Welcome to my world! I'm developing a sense of who I am and what I am able to achieve. Having friends and being part of groups is important. I know I belong. Join me and see what I'm learning and what I like to do!

Be present to your kids.

"Being listened to is so close to being loved that most people cannot tell the difference."

David Oxberg

"Good habits formed in youth make all the difference."

Aristotle

"If you talk to your children, you can help them to keep their lives together. If you talk to them skillfully, you can help them to build future dreams."

Jim Rohn

Thought You'd Like to Know

My Body



- I play long and hard and am apt to overdo it.
- I like to show off my achievements such as artistic and athletic abilities.
- I am developing coordination, speed and accuracy.
- I have an increasing awareness of differences between boys and girls.
- Us girls are ahead in height and weight and may begin to menstruate.

My Feelings



- I am becoming independent. I don't think I need a babysitter or supervision.
- I am becoming more self-conscious.
- I am impressionable and base my feelings on how others react to me.
- Criticism and compliments affect me.
- Some of my fears are: separation, divorce, failure at school.
- I am better able to empathize with others.
- I feel more secure deep down when I have boundaries.

My Relationships



- Belonging to a group is important to me, especially a group of the same gender.
- I form groups based on shared interest—these groups are often exclusive.
- Peers can have more influence on me than parents. I may resist authority.
- I enjoy communicating through "instant messaging."
- I have a high interest in competitive sports.
- I am looking for heroes or role models, both inside and outside the family.



- My critical thinking and reasoning skills are increasing. I am able to ask deeper questions and comprehend analogies and concepts. I ask more "why" questions.
- I like to participate in discussions and sometimes listen to more adult conversations.
- Teaching, visual aids and hands-on tasks help me learn.
- My interests are increasing as I discover what I like and what I excel in.
- I read fiction and non-fiction, magazines and preferred sections of the newspaper.
- I write multiple paragraphs (narrative, expository, persuasive).
- I can do multi-digit multiplication and division.
- I am learning multi-step problem solving.
- I am learning about local regions, as well as my country's geography, history and current events.
- I make my own decisions and accept the consequences for those decisions.

- Listen to my questions, give honest answers and assure me of God's love.
- Hearing personal faith stories helps me know who God is and respond to him.
- I am beginning to learn that when I pray sometimes God says "yes," "no," "wait."
- I am beginning to understand biblical symbols and sacraments such as communion and baptism.
- I am learning God wants me to grow, learn and follow him.
- I am starting to understand what it means to worship God on my own and/or in a group.
- I am learning cause and effect between God forgiving us and us forgiving others.
- I can pray out loud in a safe environment.
- I understand more deeply what it means to have a relationship with Jesus.
- I am learning about giving, saving and spending money from God's point of view.

"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.
- Provide experiences that allow me to serve others.
- Provide opportunities for me to learn real-life skills, i.e. mowing the yard, baking.
- Provide opportunities for me to manage money.
- Allow me time and space to be alone with my thoughts and dreams.

Favorite Activities: soccer; football; water sports; jump rope; basketball; baseball; rock wall climbing; tether ball; gymnastics; spend time with friends; problem solving; puzzles; real-life tasks; copy designs and shapes; games (cards, checkers); puppet shows; act out stories; draw; read; write; cook; listen to music on my iPod; play on the computer; "instant message" my friends; explore nature.

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
- Siblings
- Extended family
- Grandparents
- Teachers

Note: The development and behavior of nine and ten 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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