

Kindergarteners and First Graders



Ages
5-6

I'm a kindergartener/first grader. Welcome to my world! I enjoy attention from others but I'm often self-conscious. I'm learning how to read and write. Join me and see what I'm learning and what I like to do!

• “You know that the beginning is the most important part of any work, especially in the case of a young and tender thing; for that is the time at which the character is being formed.”

Plato

• “If you want your children to improve, let them overhear the nice things you say about them to others.”

Haim Ginott

• “You can learn many things from children. How much patience you have, for instance.”

Frank P. Adams

• “If you want to see what children can do, you must stop giving them things.”

Norman Douglas

Thought You'd Like to Know



- My large muscle coordination is stronger than my small muscle coordination. Gymnastics, soccer, baseball, dance, are favorites.
- Us girls are ahead of boys in our small muscle coordination.
- Us boys are fascinated with bodily functions.
- My eye-hand coordination is being fine tuned; cutting large objects and coloring within the lines is easier.
- I am beginning to throw and catch a ball more accurately.
- I am losing my baby teeth.



- My emotions can quickly go to extremes: good to bad, sweet to whiny, giving to possessive.
- I am willing to help in areas in which I feel confident.
- I express feelings with actions:
happy = hugging
excited = jumping
anger = hitting
- I feel proud when I am positively compared to others.
- I have increased fears of such things as insects, dogs, sounds, the dark.



- My friendships are expanding from parents to peers and other adults. I look up to leaders at school, in the neighborhood, and at church.
- I want to please others and do things right.
- I am sometimes reluctant and/or I don't always know when to ask for help.
- I play in small groups and want to be accepted.
- I largely ignore gender when playing with others.
- I like to test limits to see if you say what you mean and mean what you say.
- I am competitive. It's hard for me to lose. Taking turns is not always easy.

My Intellect



- My attention span is expanding.
- I increasingly understand jokes and puns.
- I need clear, simple directions with modeling.
- I recognize letters and sounds.
- I am beginning to read. I can write my name and simple sentences.
- I can listen and follow chapter books.
- I can count to 100 or higher.
- I can do simple addition/subtraction.
- I know colors and shapes.
- I am learning about my family/neighborhood.
- I want to ask a lot of questions, especially "How?" and "Why?"
- I reason logically when content is presented concretely.
- I understand the difference between a need and a want.
- I am better at focusing on one task at a time rather than multitasking.
- I am learning the difference between right and left.

Spending Time Together

- Pay attention to what I enjoy talking about, listening to, doing and playing. Engage with me in those activities.
- I enjoy simple finger plays and rhythm activities.
- I like to talk about my family.
- I enjoy learning and reading fact books.
- Give me challenges.
- I prefer consistent routines that provide a security net.
- Be specific when affirming me for something I do well or when you see me doing something diligently.

Favorite Activities: draw; do complex puzzles; play dress up; play house; play cars; act things out; use scissors, glue; color; ask questions; play board games; play action games (King of the Mountain); spend time with friends; play catch; lace my shoes and button my coat; paint; be read to; build things.

Key People In My Life

- Parents
- Siblings
- Extended family
- Grandparents
- Teachers

My Spiritual & Moral Development



- Listen to my questions, give honest answers and assure me of God's love.
- I am beginning to understand the concept of what it means to be in a relationship with Jesus.
- I accept that God is everywhere all the time but am perplexed because I can't see him.
- I enjoy hearing stories about friends of God/Jesus from the Old and New Testaments and accept them as true.
- I can learn such truths as: The Bible is God's book. It tells us about God, his promises and how we should love him and love others. God is the Creator of the world and everything in it. God is loving.
- Consistent adult leaders help me understand and experience God's unconditional love and commitment.
- I understand that prayer is talking to God and believe that he hears our prayers.
- I am beginning to see inconsistencies between people's actions and their 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

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.

Note: The development and behavior of five and six 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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