

FOURTH GRADE

Child Development: Ages 9–10

Physical Development

When observing these students in the classroom, they tend to:

- Be better coordinated
- Complain about aches, pains, injuries, and hurt feelings
- Need a great deal of physical activity as they need to release energy. They enjoy the outdoors and physical challenges.

Language and Literacy Development

- Fourth graders are talkative and use descriptive and expressive language.
- These students listen well.
- They begin to read eagerly.
- Fourth graders enjoy explaining things.
- Pay attention to spelling, dictation, and penmanship.



Self Concept, Identity, and Motivation:

Fourth graders enjoy spending time with their family, friends, and teachers. They work well with others in groups, but want to be noticed and rewarded for their efforts in activities.

These young students are very critical of themselves and others. They are highly sensitive and may need adult patience and clarity when giving directions or setting expectations. They want the approval of their friends and teachers.

At this age, fourth graders become very competitive and enjoy participating in clubs, activities, and team sports.





Moral Development

As these students grow and learn, they begin to develop a mature sense of what is right and wrong. They are very concerned with friendship and the issue of fairness. Fourth graders are eager to reach out to others through community service activities.

Peer Relations

At this age, students may:

- Be friendly, but are quick to anger and to forgive
- Work well in groups.
- Enjoy cooperative and competitive activities
- Love group games, relays, and class outings



Cognitive Development



Younger Fourth Graders:

- Industrious and intellectually curious, but less imaginative.
- Able to manage more than one concept at a time.
- Have trouble understanding abstractions (i.e. large numbers, long periods of times, etc.).
- Take pride in attention to detail and finished work.
- They begin to read to learn
- Begin to master handwriting, handcrafts, computers, and

Older Fourth Graders:

- Very good at memorizing facts
- Able to think abstractly
- Enjoy collecting, classifying, and organizing
- Highly productive with schoolwork and take pride in their work.
- Receptive learners
- Enjoy choral reading, singing, poetry, and plays.
- Can concentrate for long periods of time.