

First Grade

YOU HAVE APPROXIMATELY 624 WEEKS AND COUNTING

THIS YEAR YOU WILL PROVOKE DISCOVERY SO YOUR CHILD WILL TRUST GOD'S CHARACTER AND EXPERIENCE GOD'S FAMILY.

Your first grader may be starting to read and enjoy books. So, this is a great year to purchase a kid's Bible. Look for one that is the full-text, in an easy-to-read translation, like NIV. You will need to read it to them for now. Continue having other faith conversations as you go about your days together.

Your first grader's schedule may be picking up pace—from bus rides to recreational sports to after-school programs. But with all the increasing opportunities to try new things, don't miss what your first grader needs the most...you! The way you answer their questions, listen to their stories, and show up consistently will help them improve their abilities.

SAY THINGS LIKE...

- "Are you scared? Let's talk to God about it."
- "Isn't that wonderful! Let's thank God for it."
- "A friend loves at all times. He is there to help when trouble comes." Proverbs 17:17
- (Repeat simple Bible verses).
- "You can trust God no matter what."
- "You need to make the wise choice."
- "You should treat others the way you want to be treated."
- "Let's take a new book to your friend who stayed home sick today."
- (Involve them in serving friends and neighbors).



CONNECTION POINT: MORNING TIME

Be a coach.

Instill purpose by starting the day with encouraging words.



CONNECTION POINT: DRIVE TIME

Be a friend.

Interpret life during informal conversation as you travel.



CONNECTION POINT: MEAL TIME

Be a teacher.

Establish values with intentional conversation while you eat together.



CONNECTION POINT: BED TIME

Be a counselor.

Strengthen your relationship through heart conversations at the end of the day.

THINKS LIKE A SCIENTIST

You help them learn when you...
GIVE THEM A CHALLENGE

WANTS TO KNOW, "DO I HAVE FRIENDS?"

You capture their heart when you...
DEVELOP FRIENDSHIPS

IS MOTIVATED BY FUN

You coach their moral abilities when you...
INVITE OTHERS TO JOIN IN.

YOUR FIRST GRADER IS CHANGING...

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THE PHASE WHEN UNFILTERED WORDS MAKE YOU LAUGH, SCHOOL DROP-OFF MAKES YOU CRY, AND LIFE BECOMES A STAGE WHERE YOUR KID SHOUTS, “LOOK AT ME!”

PHYSICALLY

- Loses incisor teeth (6-8 years).
- Grows two to three inches and gains an average of five pounds.
- Able to swim, skip, gallop, and move to the beat of music.
- Draws with considerable detail.
- Needs 10-12 hours of sleep each night.

SOCIALLY

- Wants to finish first (may be highly competitive).
- Can be bossy or critical of others.
- Needs guidance taking turns and losing well.
- May have a best friend (or may not).

MENTALLY

- Able to concentrate on one activity for 5-15 minutes.
- Beginning to understand ironic humor and tells simple jokes.
- Often very ambitious and motivated to learn.
- Beginning to logically interpret cause and effect.

EMOTIONALLY

- Tends to be enthusiastic
- Benefits from relaxation techniques (take a deep breath).
- Expresses feelings better through play and art (rather than words).
- Deals with fear and anxiety by distracting themselves.
- Highly sensitive to harsh criticism, tone, and body language.