

# Fourth Grade

YOU HAVE APPROXIMATELY 468 WEEKS AND COUNTING

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

Fourth graders are often introspective and enjoy having some alone time. Leverage this new tendency to help them develop a habit of spending time alone with God. Help them pick out a preteen devotional, and continue having faith conversations at home. You can do these things by taking advantage of the time you already spend together.

Your fourth grader can understand different points of view, empathize with others, and negotiate like a champ. That means one thing: Your influence is shifting. Your kid still needs you, but they are beginning to need you in a different way. If you want to engage their interests, then include peers, coach relational skills, and help your kid develop healthy friendships.

## SAY THINGS LIKE...

- "How can I pray for you today / this week?"
- "Having faith isn't always easy, but we can trust God no matter what."
- "What do you think is the wisest choice in this situation?"
- "If you were them, how do you think you would want to be treated?"
- Have you read anything in the Bible that means a lot to you right now?" (Talk about the Bible)
- "Did you know that the Bible was written as 66 different books, but they tell one story?"
- (Connect the dots between the stories to give a bigger context.)



### 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 FOURTH GRADER IS CHANGING...

# 04

THE PHASE WHEN FRIENDS ARE “BEST FRIENDS”,  
GAMES ARE FOR COMPETITION,  
AND YOUR CONFIDENT KID WILL INSIST, “I’VE GOT THIS!”

## PHYSICALLY

- Continues losing baby teeth including molars (9-12 years).
- Improves in speed, force, and body control.
- Needs physical activity and may become restless.
- May show signs of early puberty; acne, mood swings, rapid growth.
- Needs 10-11 hours of sleep each night.

## MENTALLY

- Able to concentrate on one activity for 45 minutes.
- Can read silently and remember what they’ve read.
- Able to collaborate on rules and consequences.
- Recognizes different perspectives and is becoming more empathetic.
- Still struggles with abstract concepts.

## SOCIALLY

- Increasingly values peer approval.
- Desires more personal privacy.
- Often thrives in competitive situations.
- Benefits from having a same-gender best friend.
- May be interested in or curious about opposite-gender relationships (but rarely admits it).

## EMOTIONALLY

- Frequently exhibits signs of anxiety.
- May begin to be embarrassed about their body.
- Enjoys puns, sarcasm, and sometimes crude jokes.
- Still holds to family beliefs and values, but may ask challenging questions.
- May be drawn to humanitarian causes and enjoy service opportunities.