

Kindergarten

YOU HAVE APPROXIMATELY 676 WEEKS AND COUNTING

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

Your kindergartner is quickly learning the habits and routines that make your family work. Make church a priority, but don't let it be the only time you talk about faith. Talk about God as you go about your day.

School is a crisis. Your now-elementary-school kid is adjusting to big changes, whether it's bus rides or lunch lines or new routines. But the stress of change can also be a platform for discovery and growth. 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."
- "What did Jesus do when he went to Zacchaeus' house?"
- (Talk about what your kindergartner learned at church.)
- "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 make dinner for Mrs. Paula. She doesn't feel well."
- (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 KINDERGARTNER IS CHANGING...

THE PHASE WHEN UNFILTERED WORDS MAKE YOU LAUGH, SCHOOLDROP-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 ride a bicycle, roller skate, and jump rope.
- Draws a person with a body.
- Needs 10-12 hours of sleep each night.

MENTALLY

- Able to concentrate on one activity for 5-15 minutes.
- Recognizes and names numbers, shapes, and colors.
- Knows the difference between need vs. want and real vs. pretend.
- Doesn't logically interpret cause and effect.

SOCIALLY

- Wants to please and help adults.
- Has a hard time asking for help.
- Needs guidance taking turns and losing well.
- May show some (not much) gender preference for playmates.

EMOTIONALLY

- Tends to be optimistic.
- Can be fanatical about the truth.
- 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