

CHARACTERISTICS OF FOURTH GRADE CHILDREN

During this period of childhood, there is great physical vigor. Most children are very active and seem to be tireless. They are fond of rough and tumble play and beginning to become interested in team play. Fourth graders are growing and maturing at different rates and along different lines, making them appear quite different from others in the group. They need careful balance between adult guidance and their own independent action.

Fourth grade children will probably be:

1. nine or ten years old
2. energetic and daring
3. extremely interested in clubs, teams, etc.
4. interested in factual material
5. scornful of the opposite gender
6. self-centered
7. untidy
8. unwise in spending money

They will probably have:

1. great physical energy
2. a great variety of interests (daydreaming common)
3. sense of humor (takes form of much noise and giggling)
4. strong sense of justice (impressionable)
5. started a collection
6. a strong desire for a pet

Fourth grade children need:

1. security (understanding of parent and teacher)
2. a well-organized day
3. plenty of rest, and good food at regular intervals
4. close, brief friendships with others of the same gender
5. encouragement to try new activities as well as finish what they start
6. opportunities to excel
7. special help in developing physical skills such as batting, throwing, kicking, catching balls, etc.
8. opportunities for committee work, construction, dramatic play, and club work
9. to learn the value of quiet activities
10. praise, attention, and sense of belonging

Parents can help by:

1. providing opportunities for group planning and discussion with adult guidance
2. providing games or physical activities in which they compete
3. providing regular examinations by a doctor and dentist
4. developing habits of good nutrition and rest
5. encouraging interests in arts and crafts, collection, pets, etc.
6. promoting habits of tidiness
7. giving them a part in some aspects of family life and help them develop some sense of responsibility about their place in the family
8. listening to and talking with the child
9. giving praise for good work behavior
10. planning a system for earning an allowance

