# Characteristics of Children

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Physical</th>
<th>1st &amp; 2nd Graders</th>
<th>3rd &amp; 4th Graders</th>
<th>5th &amp; 6th Graders</th>
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| • Is developing small muscle control  
  • Is developing eye-hand coordination  
  • Is active and has difficulty sitting still for long periods of time  
  • Tires easily  
  • Uses entire body to learn  
  • Likes all kinds of games  
  • Likes using her hands  
  • Enjoys creative play | • Has slow, steady growth and good muscle coordination  
  • Has good eye-hand coordination  
  • Is enthusiastic and may have trouble calming down  
  • Girls are growing more quickly than boys  
  • Can work for longer periods of time  
  • Needs to be able to let off steam | • Has good coordination and small muscle skills  
  • Is beginning puberty, girls usually ahead of boys  
  • Can be noisy and boisterous  
  • Enjoys competition & likes to win  
  • Is motivated by own interests  
  • Likes to use abundant energy and physical skills |

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<th>Mental</th>
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| • Has limited ability to think abstractly  
  • Fears imaginary creatures/people  
  • Can follow specific instructions  
  • Has limited attention span  
  • Has good memory  
  • Can get deeply absorbed in activities  
  • Has a need to succeed  
  • Can find some verses in the Bible | • Beginning to think abstractly  
  • Is eager to learn  
  • Likes to experiment and find out how things are made/work  
  • Wants to do things the right way and may feel ashamed when wrong  
  • Is able to excel in Bible skill activities  
  • May have difficulty making decisions | • Growing in ability to think abstractly  
  • Thinks quickly and memorizes easily  
  • Can think for herself and solve problems  
  • Can concentrate when interested  
  • Is imaginative, creative, and curious  
  • Can cope with success & failure  
  • Learns through various experiences |

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<th>Social/Emotional</th>
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| • Is moving toward independence, but still needs frequent assurance  
  • Is sensitive to what others think and desires approval  
  • Cries easily when scolded  
  • May avoid new situations  
  • Uses own experiences to understand others  
  • Can be self centered | • Enjoys being with friends  
  • May express dislike of children of the opposite sex  
  • Likes to express himself  
  • Dislikes being treated as a “baby”  
  • Will accept carefully worded criticism  
  • Eager to please, wants to be liked  
  • Changes moods quickly | • Needs approval of peers; likes acceptance; enjoys companionship  
  • Can be sensitive to others  
  • Will take a stand contrary to family or friends  
  • May argue a lot  
  • Are beginning to be interested in the opposite sex  
  • Experiences extremes of emotions |

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| • Sees Jesus as a friend and helper  
  • Enjoys praying  
  • Likes learning from the Bible  
  • Is making conclusions about God  
  • Is interested in God’s world/nature  
  • Is beginning to understand truth & honesty, right from wrong | • Is becoming conscious of self & sin  
  • Is developing values  
  • Can see things in terms of right and wrong more than good and bad  
  • Asks serious questions about religion  
  • May be beginning to feel the need to accept Jesus as Savior | • Has concepts of love and trust  
  • Is ready for spiritual answers and direction in developing a value system  
  • Is learning limits of behavior  
  • Can experience conviction of the Holy Spirit |