

# Characteristics of Children

	1st & 2nd Graders	3rd & 4th Graders	5th & 6th Graders
Physical	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is developing small muscle control</li> <li>• Is developing eye-hand coordination</li> <li>• Is active and has difficulty sitting still for long periods of time</li> <li>• Tires easily</li> <li>• Uses entire body to learn</li> <li>• Likes all kinds of games</li> <li>• Likes using her hands</li> <li>• Enjoys creative play</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Has slow, steady growth and good muscle coordination</li> <li>• Has good eye-hand coordination</li> <li>• Is enthusiastic and may have trouble calming down</li> <li>• Girls are growing more quickly than boys</li> <li>• Can work for longer periods of time</li> <li>• Needs to be able to let off steam</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Has good coordination and small muscle skills</li> <li>• Is beginning puberty, girls usually ahead of boys</li> <li>• Can be noisy and boisterous</li> <li>• Enjoys competition &amp; likes to win</li> <li>• Is motivated by own interests</li> <li>• Likes to use abundant energy and physical skills</li> </ul>
Mental	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Has limited ability to think abstractly</li> <li>• Fears imaginary creatures/people</li> <li>• Can follow specific instructions</li> <li>• Has limited attention span</li> <li>• Has good memory</li> <li>• Can get deeply absorbed in activities</li> <li>• Has a need to succeed</li> <li>• Can find some verses in the Bible</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Beginning to think abstractly</li> <li>• Is eager to learn</li> <li>• Likes to experiment and find out how things are made/work</li> <li>• Wants to do things the right way and may feel ashamed when wrong</li> <li>• Is able to excel in Bible skill activities</li> <li>• May have difficulty making decisions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Growing in ability to think abstractly</li> <li>• Thinks quickly and memorizes easily</li> <li>• Can think for herself and solve problems</li> <li>• Can concentrate when interested</li> <li>• Is imaginative, creative, and curious</li> <li>• Can cope with success &amp; failure</li> <li>• Learns through various experiences</li> </ul>
Social/Emotional	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is moving toward independence, but still needs frequent assurance</li> <li>• Is sensitive to what others think and desires approval</li> <li>• Cries easily when scolded</li> <li>• May avoid new situations</li> <li>• Uses own experiences to understand others</li> <li>• Can be self centered</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enjoys being with friends</li> <li>• May express dislike of children of the opposite sex</li> <li>• Likes to express himself</li> <li>• Dislikes being treated as a “baby”</li> <li>• Will accept carefully worded criticism</li> <li>• Eager to please, wants to be liked</li> <li>• Changes moods quickly</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Needs approval of peers; likes acceptance; enjoys companionship</li> <li>• Can be sensitive to others</li> <li>• Will take a stand contrary to family or friends</li> <li>• May argue a lot</li> <li>• Are beginning to be interested in the opposite sex</li> <li>• Experiences extremes of emotions</li> </ul>
Spiritual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sees Jesus as a friend and helper</li> <li>• Enjoys praying</li> <li>• Likes learning from the Bible</li> <li>• Is making conclusions about God</li> <li>• Is interested in God’s world/nature</li> <li>• Is beginning to understand truth &amp; honesty, right from wrong</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is becoming conscious of self &amp; sin</li> <li>• Is developing values</li> <li>• Can see things in terms of right and wrong more than good and bad</li> <li>• Asks serious questions about religion</li> <li>• May be beginning to feel the need to accept Jesus as Savior</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Has concepts of love and trust</li> <li>• Is ready for spiritual answers and direction in developing a value system</li> <li>• Is learning limits of behavior</li> <li>• Can experience conviction of the Holy Spirit</li> </ul>