

A Shared Responsibility for Success in School

Children are growing and maturing continuously in individual patterns of growth, but some characteristics are common to children in this age group. Knowing these gives teachers and parents a better understanding of the child and helps to set realistic expectations for the child both academically and behaviorally. The following information is offered to give you an idea of the age-related developmental traits common of children as they progress through the grades and ways you can help your child achieve in school.

The Home School Connection:

- ✓ Provide encouragement, regular study tie, and a place with no distractions for homework.
- ✓ Monitor progress by having close contact with the child's teacher
- ✓ Be supportive and positive when working with your child
- ✓ Choose and enforce age-appropriate clear and consistent limits
- ✓ Notify the teacher of problems in the home that may cause stress
- ✓ Respect your child's increasing maturity
- ✓ Be the example setter for things you want your child to achieve\Provide good nutrition, proper rest, and regular physical examinations
- ✓ Be aware of and share interests in school, hobbies, ideas, and friends
- ✓ Listen and talk with your child daily

Yulupa Students: The Student in Primary Grades Needs:

- ✓ 10-12 hours of sleep per night
- ✓ A sense of security and a feeling of being loved no matter what he/she does
- ✓ A few special friends
- ✓ Opportunities to exercise large muscles
- ✓ To increase his/her vocabulary
- ✓ To have group approval and acceptance
- ✓ A happy environment
- ✓ To share toys and take turns
- ✓ To alternate periods of rest and activity
- ✓ Good nutritional habits
- ✓ Generous praise and not too much criticism of errors.
- ✓ Opportunities to show what he/she can do and talk about him/herself and interests
- ✓ Broadening experiences to satisfy a growing interest in the world
- ✓ Adult approval
- ✓ To be liked by his/her friends
- ✓ Good healthy food at regular intervals
- ✓ Proper medical care from usual childhood diseases
- ✓ Good dental care
- ✓ A well-organized day
- ✓ Good healthy food
- ✓ Adult approval
- ✓ Understanding with the desire to establish independence from adults
- ✓ Help with follow-through

Strawberry Students: The Student in Intermediate Grades Needs:

- 10-11 hours of sleep per night
- Security and understanding from parent and teacher
- Plenty of food and rest at regular intervals
- A well-organized day
- Opportunities to excel

- Close and brief friendships with the same gender
- Special help in skills of various games
- To learn the value of quiet activities
- Praise, attention, and a sense of belonging
- Opportunities for committee work, construction, dramatics and club work
- To be included in family and school planning
- Opportunities to make some decisions for self
- To be liked by his/her friends
- Guidance in spending money wisely
- Recognition and approval for his/her efforts
- Opportunities for strenuous activity
- Guidance with personal hygiene

Developmental Characteristics by Grade Level

The Kindergarten Child:

Will Probably Be:

- Extremely active
- Growing rapidly
- Susceptible to disease
- Interested in other children, yet individualistic
- Eager to please and imitate adults
- Maturing in motor control, can hop, jump and skip
- Eating, dressing, and toileting independently
- Losing his/her first teeth
- Farsighted, requiring large objects and close contact

Will Probably Have:

- Good reasoning powers
- Ability to plan and carry out plans and short-term projects
- Desire to speak plainly and use new words.
- Ability to relate experiences
- A changeable mind, gradually acquiring more defined ideas

Family Activities that Support Learning in Kindergarten:

- Read to and with your child daily and ask questions about the story
- Encourage older children to read to younger siblings
- Reinforce the importance of reading by being a reader yourself
- Label items around the house and encourage your child to read the labels
- Talk with and listen to your child
- Encourage your child to ask questions and seek answers
- Plan educational games with your child, including counting games
- Create special times for your child to be alone with you or to participate in activities with you
- Take your child places and talk about the places you visit.
- Read nursery rhymes, songs, and family stories to your child and encourage him/her to memorize the words.
- Give your child responsibilities to contribute to the family such as making the bed or picking up belongings
- Monitor your child's TV viewing
- Teach your child to write his name using upper and lower case letters
- Teach your child his/her phone number and address
- Encourage the use of toys that develop small muscle coordination such as clay, small blocks, etc.
- Let your child know that you expect him/her to do well in school and to behave

The First Grade Child:

Will Probably Be:

- Impulsive: Tending to go to extremes of behavior
- Changeable: Experiencing periods of laughter and tears in quick succession; periods of deep thinking and periods of inattention
- Often dawdling: More interested in playing than in eating or dressing
- Often careless of his/her clothes or toys
- Active: climbing, running, wrestling
- Easily frustrated by lack of motor skills
- Enjoying imaginative play
- Demanding of other
- Becoming aware of past and future time
- Attempting to do things too difficult for him/her
- Aware of the world outside home
- Ready for anything new

Will Probably Have:

- Good reasoning powers
- Ability to plan and carry out plans and short-term projects
- Desire to speak plainly and use new words.
- Ability to relate experiences
- Much enjoyment from dramatic play
- Lengthening periods of calmness and self absorption
- An interest in collecting things and property rights to the things collected

Family Activities that Support Learning in First Grade:

- Continue to read to and with your child daily, pointing out simple words and sounds.
- Continue to encourage older siblings to read to and tutor younger siblings
- Make regular visits to the library with your child
- Point out printed words in the community or home—stop signs, words in the newspaper, signs in stores,
- Discuss and monitor television programs
- Take walks around the neighborhood, counting common objects such as trees, talking about local businesses, street names, and interesting points in nature.
- Tell stories about family history and culture
- Ask your child to count pennies or other coins when at the market
- Point out and discuss various shapes and sizes around the home—the circle on the clock face, size of a milk carton, etc.
- Link scheduled family activities to the time of day—lunch at noon, bedtime at 8:00, etc.
- Give your child responsibilities to contribute to the family such as cleaning his/her room, recycling
- Provide opportunities for your child to interact with members of the extended family: grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, etc

The Second Grade Child:

Will Probably Be:

- Two or three inches taller than last year
- Sturdy and healthy
- Still for only a short while at a time
- A problem eater
- Losing baby teeth
- Showing a desire for freedom
- Showing independence from adults
- Aggressive sometimes and sympathetic others
- Emotional, particularly fearful of imaginary and improbable dangers
- Sensitive to ridicule, failure, loss of prestige
- A good listener
- A boaster
- Enjoying secrets with friends
- Interested in everything of the present time and immediate environment
- Enjoying some time alone
- Demanding of self
- A fan of riddles and simple jokes
- A complainer and moody
- Literal in thinking; not quite ready for abstract

Will Probably Have:

- A strong liking for anything that runs on wheels
- Much enjoyment from dramatic play
- Lengthening periods of calmness and self absorption
- Increased interest in team and group activities
- A well-developed competitive spirit

Family Activities that Support Learning for the Second Grader

- Let your child plan meals and cook with you focus on measuring and how foods and liquids change when heated
- Help your child make a map of his/her home or neighborhood, label simple items
- Encourage your child to do homework independently, while still expressing an interest in his/her work
- Teach your child to write simple thank you notes to grandparents, etc.
- Encourage your child to read books that contain factual information about dogs, plants, etc.
- Use reference materials in your home with your child—dictionaries, simple encyclopedias, computers, atlases, etc.
- Find the country of your ancestors on a map and trace their route to America.
- Talk about your job and how it affects others in the community.
- Have your child become familiar with the prices of common items.
- Gradually increase your child's level of home responsibility.

The Third Grade Child:

Will Probably Be:

- More able to control large muscles than smaller ones
- Interested in cliques, teams, and own gender
- Sensitive to ridicule, failure, loss of prestige
- Developing better eye-hand coordination
- Somewhat inclined to hit, tease, and punch
- Careless about how dirty he/she gets for the fun of it
- Unable to maintain a long attention span
- Serious about self and ability to imitate adult behavior

Will Probably Have:

- A desire for group play activity and teams
- Growing ability to make social responses
- Interest in dressing up and playing parts
- Tendency to use unacceptable language
- A strong sense of justice as he/she sees it
- Contradictory skills
- Varying emotional patterns of fear, joy, jealousy, and affection
- Fear of such things as blood, ghosts, lightening, robbers, dark, solitude
- Ideas and desires to create things beyond his/her ability.
- Sexual modesty
- Eagerness for new experiences
- Enthusiasm and energy
- Difficulty with follow-through

Family Activities that Support Learning in Third Grade

- Continue to read to and with your child daily, choosing a variety of literature and longer books that can be read over an extended period of time
- Share your enjoyment of reading with your child
- Visit museums, parks, aquariums, and cultural events and discuss them with your child; as possible, connect family outings to your child's school studies
- Talk to your child about what you do to help your community and involve your child where possible; for example, participate in the Human Race or other community event as a family
- Provide your child with access to the local newspaper and discuss current events at the dinner table.
- Help your child memorize multiplication facts in a fun, game-like manner.
- Involve your child in developing family traditions for holidays, special occasions and times of seasonal

The Fourth Grade Child:

Will probably be:

- Insistent on his/her independence
- More self-contained and self-sufficient
- Interested in factual material
- Extremely interested in peers and teamwork
- A worrier/complainer of small discomforts
- Self-centered

Will probably have:

- Great physical energy
- Passing curiosity about sex
- Great variety of interests
- Sense of humor
- Strong and impressionable sense of justice
- Started a collection
- Desire for a pet
- Desire to participate in some community activity

Family Activities that Support Learning for the Fourth Grader

- Explore as much of California as possible through travel, videos, books, and family stories
- Support your child's activities outside of school; for example, scouts, athletics, band, etc.
- Encourage older children to teach their younger siblings to play board games, cards, etc.
- Make sure your child gets enough rest and has the proper nutrition
- Emphasize safety as your child becomes more independent in areas such as bicycle/traffic rules, and contacts with strangers
- Watch weather reports on television with your child
- Encourage your child to select more sophisticated literature on library visits, e.g. biographies, plays, adventure stories, etc.
- Make up math word problems based on household activities
- Consider your child's academic and cultural interests when choosing gifts
- Institute a family reading hour during which time everyone reads something

The Fifth Grade Child:

Will probably be:

- Relatively more free from disease than at any other growing period
- Normally slow and steady in growth in height and weight
- Interested in factual material
- Showing better command of time
- Able to concentrate for longer periods
- Pleased with adults
- Increasingly aware of and concerned about personal ideas and beliefs
- Extremely interested in and loyal to groups of friends, clubs, etc. of his/her own gender
- Able to assume responsibility for personal needs in dress and grooming
- Beginning to struggle between ending childhood and beginning adolescence

Will probably have

- Increasing interest in organized games and team play
- Passing curiosity about sex
- Urge to earn money
- Great variety of interests
- Well-developed sense of humor
- Strong and impressionable sense of justice
- Interest in collecting
- Desire for a pet
- Desire to participate in a community activity
- Increased strength and resistance to fatigue
- Beginning interest in opposite sex
- Need for special friends
- Tendency to separate work from play

Family Activities that Support Learning for the Fifth Grader:

- Subscribe to a kid's magazine or book clubs
- Explore as much of the US as possible through travel, videos, books, and family stories
- Give your child more responsibility for money and ways to earn it
- Involve your child in deciding on his/her responsibilities around the house and ways to contribute to the family
- Encourage your child to read to and tutor younger siblings
- Discuss your favorite authors with your child
- Encourage your child to read varied books
- Discuss movies and television programs in terms of characters, plot, setting, theme
- Listen carefully when your child talks to you
- Help your child with research for school and personal interest projects while still encouraging him/her to work independently
- Create estimation problems in every day life such as how long it takes to drive 100 miles
- Practice mental math with your child
- Actively support your child when he/she wants to explore science at home through activities such as model building and "kitchen chemistry"
- Discuss safety issues when using tools and equipment
- Help your child stick with an activity when he/she is frustrated or having difficulty

The Sixth Grade Child:

Will probably be:

- Able to concentrate for longer periods
- Resentful of being told what to do
- Increasingly aware of and concerned about the personal ideas and beliefs of others
- Having strong urges to conform to peers
- Ready to challenge knowledge or adults
- Able to assume responsibility for personal needs in dress and grooming
- Eager to earn money
- Critical of his/her artistic productions
- Developing a sense of humor
- Joining clubs
- Increasingly able to separate work from play
- Able to gain satisfaction in his/her ability to achieve
- Struggling between ending childhood and beginning adolescence
- More interested in peer group than family

Will probably have:

- An interest in religion
- Cravings to be alone for long periods of time
- An interest in the world around him/her
- More freedom from disease than at any other growing period
- An interest in factual material
- An interest in organized games and team play
- An interest in collecting
- An interest in the opposite sex
- Increased strength and resistance to fatigue
- Desire to have a pet

Family Activities that Support Learning for the Sixth Grader

- Involve your child in local community drama or other fine arts opportunities
- Encourage your child to be active in school clubs and activities
- Read aloud and discuss your favorite forms of literature with your child—a favorite poem, humorous section of a novel, news article, etc.
- Share your favorite author and discuss why he/she is your favorite
- Use the Internet to access information
- Involve your child in planning a family vacation, including the estimation of costs and mileage, geographical and historical points of interest to see, planning an itinerary, etc
- Point out influences of ancient cultures in everyday life, including words with Latin roots, references to Greek or Roman mythology, food, etc.
- Consider a science set as a gift
- Encourage local and critical thinking to solve problems