## FOURTH GRADE



FRIENDS ARE BEST FRIENDS,

AND YOUR CONFIDENT KID

GAMES ARE FOR COMPETITION,

WILL INSIST,

"I'VE GOT THIS."





### FRIENDS AND MORE.

Peer approval (and disapproval) is significantly motivating in this phase. You may notice that some friends have quickly become "best friends." If your fourth grader is doing, saying, or wearing something that confuses you, check out what their peers are doing, saying or wearing. Don't worry, your opinion will matter again... in maybe another ten years.

### COMPETITION CAN BE FUN.

With a "lifetime" of experience under their belt and a "no fear" attitude, a kid in this phase is virtually unstoppable. They are ready for the world to take notice, and they lack the self-consciousness that might otherwise slow them down. They are ready for competition because it's one more way to show you just how smart and fast and strong they really are.

### NATURAL CONFIDENCE RULES.

So this phase demonstrates a clarity of mind that comes with knowing the ropes. Lean into that confidence and build it. Let them know you see their potential and you believe in it. They will need to draw from it in the next phase.



# YOUR ROLE IS TO ENGAGE THEIR INTERESTS

Everyone needs a friend. That may sound cliche, but research actually shows there is extraordinary value in having a best friend in fourth grade. Kids need to share their most authentic version of themselves with another person. If you want to engage their interests, then include peers, coach relational skills, and help your kid develop healthy friendships in this phase.

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.

### YOU CAN HELP YOUR KID GROW IN WISDOM, FAITH, AND FRIENDSHIP.

When you ENGAGE your child's interests, you help them...

### TRUST GOD'S CHARACTER. EXPERIENCE GOD'S FAMILY.

Practically speaking, that means every week you have an opportunity to...

### CONNECT WITH A FAITH COMMUNITY. PRAY TOGETHER. READ BIBLE STORIES AND ANSWER FAITH QUESTIONS. REPEAT BASIC TRUTHS LIKE:

"I can trust God no matter what." "I need to make the wise choice." "I should treat others the way I want to be treated."

You can do these things by taking advantage of the time you already spend together.

MORNING TIME	DRIVE TIME	MEAL TIME	BED TIME
ВЕ А СОАСН.	BE A FRIEND.	BE A TEACHER.	BE A COUNSELOR.
You instill purpose when you start the day with encouraging words.	You interpret life during informal conversation as you travel.	You establish values with intentional conversation while you eat together.	You strengthen your relationship through heart conversations at the end of the day.



### YOUR KID IS CHANGING...

### **PHYSICALLY**

- » May show signs of early stages of puberty: acne, mood swings, and changes in height and weight (girls 8-11, boys 9-12 years)
- » Continues losing molars (9-12 years)
- » Improves in speed, force, and body control
- » Needs physical activity and may become restless
- » Still needs 10-11 hours of sleep each night

#### SOCIALLY

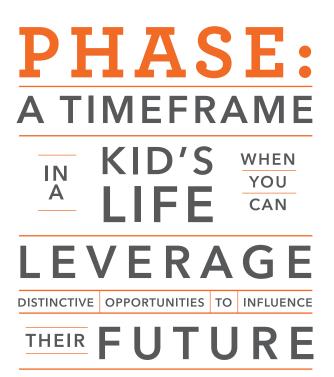
- » Increasingly values peer approval and challenges authority
- » Often thrives in competitive situations
- » Benefits from having a same-gender best friend
- » May have romantic interests, crushes, and experiment with physical affection

#### **MENTALLY**

- » Concentrates on one activity up to 45 minutes
- » Reads to learn instead of learning to read
- » Able to collaborate on rules and consequences
- » Still struggles with abstract concepts

### **EMOTIONALLY**

- » Easily embarrassed about their body
- » Enjoys puns and sarcasm, but humor may turn negative
- » Needs to navigate some failure and experience consequences
- » Still holds to family beliefs and values, but may ask challenging questions
- » Wants to be seen as "independent" and "mature"
- » May be drawn to a humanitarian cause and enjoy service opportunities





YOU HAVE 468 WEEKS AND COUNTING...

# IT'S JUST A PHASE SO DON'T MISS IT



580 Brookwood Point Place • Simpsonville SC 29681