

FOURTH GRADE

THE PHASE
WHEN



AND YOUR
CONFIDENT KID



WILL INSIST,

FRIENDS ARE
BEST FRIENDS,

GAMES ARE FOR COMPETITION,

"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.

IT'S JUST A
PHASE

SO DON'T
MISS IT



YOUR ROLE IS TO **ENGAGE** THEIR INTERESTS

Everyone needs a friend. That may sound cliché, 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**

BE A COACH.

You instill purpose
when you start
the day with
encouraging words.

**DRIVE
TIME**

BE A FRIEND.

You interpret life
during informal
conversation as
you travel.

**MEAL
TIME**

BE A TEACHER.

You establish values
with intentional
conversation while
you eat together.

**BED
TIME**

BE A
COUNSELOR.

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

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

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

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

PHASE:

A TIMEFRAME

IN A KID'S LIFE WHEN YOU CAN

LEVERAGE

DISTINCTIVE OPPORTUNITIES TO INFLUENCE

THEIR FUTURE



YOU HAVE 468 WEEKS AND COUNTING...

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



580 Brookwood Point Place • Simpsonville SC 29681
864.688.8200 • brookwoodchurch.org