



A PARENT'S GUIDE TO **Fourth Grade**



Sun Prairie Area  
School District



# Child Development

## WE KNOW...



*Stages of growth and development follow a reasonably predictable pattern. Children and adolescents do not proceed through each stage at the same pace. Children and adolescents progress through the various aspects of development at their own rate. Growth is uneven.”*

Source: *Yardsticks: Child and Adolescent Development Ages 4-14*, by Chip Wood

### Physical Development

- Girls generally ahead of boys in physical maturity.
- Improve coordination and reaction time.
- Stomach aches, headaches, leg pains common.
- High energy, often playing to the point of fatigue.
- Inconsistent appetite and sleep patterns.

### Social and Emotional Development

- Fourth graders often enjoy trying new ways of dressing and grooming, becoming more aware of their individual identity.
- They can be easily frustrated or impatient.
- They can feel worried or anxious, need adults to balance with lightheartedness and humor to relieve their anxiety.
- They can be critical of self and others, sometimes with a focus on fairness issues.
- They have a growing sense of who is in and out of groups in the lunchroom and/or playground; cliques may become problematic.
- They may be competitive, argumentative, like to negotiate.
- They need adults to be patient and explain clearly, but concisely.

## Fourth-Grade Experience

Fourth graders will ...

### ART

- Brainstorm multiple approaches to an art or design problem
- Develop idea generation strategies
- Create works of art reflecting community or cultural traditions
- Create artwork expressing personal identity and meaning
- Demonstrate safe procedures for using and cleaning art tools, equipment, and studio spaces
- Use peer feedback to revise and improve artwork
- Compare and contrast purposes of art museums, art galleries, and other venues
- Select and apply The Studio Habits of Mind, a set of thinking dispositions utilized throughout the creative process, to create artwork
- Interpret art and cite evidence to support ones conclusions using art vocabulary
- 4th grade media includes drawing, painting, collage, fiber, printmaking, ceramics, and 3D sculpture

### HEALTH

- Describe the physical, mental, and social benefits of physical activity and health
- Describe the digestive process and list the 7 nutrients and the foods that provide them
- Review label reading and locate the nutritional information panel on a food container
- Examine and compare sugar, fat, vitamins, minerals, and fiber content in different foods
- Explain the importance of the dietary guidelines and a healthy weight
- Identify and name influences on food choices
- Identify the physical and emotional changes which occur as they go through puberty
- Recognize that hygiene needs change as they grow and develop
- Use accurate terminology to explain the structure and function of the Male & Female Reproductive System
- Recognize signs and symptoms of breathing obstructions
- Identify precautions and safety procedures when no adult is present
- Discuss how to stay safe outdoors (Sun Safety)

### PHYSICAL EDUCATION

- Combines traveling with the manipulative skills of dribbling, throwing, catching and striking in teacher- and/ or student-designed small-sided practice task environments
- Exhibits etiquette and adherence to rules in a variety of physical activities
- Identifies the components of health-related fitness
- Applies simple offensive and defensive strategies/ tactics in chasing and fleeing activities
- Describes/compares the positive social interactions when engaged in partner, small-group and large-group physical activities
- Exhibits responsible behavior in independent group situations

### MUSIC

- Sing alone and with others in a tuneful and healthy way
- Perform various rhythms and melodies with proper technique on classroom instruments and recorders
- Describe music and form opinions using appropriate vocabulary
- Demonstrate appropriate performance etiquette
- Be quiet audience members and reflect on the music afterward
- Learn dances and move expressively in response to different styles of music and cultures
- Identify different sound characteristics, common instruments and their roles in a variety of ensembles and genres
- Demonstrate appropriate performance etiquette
- Read, notate, and compose various rhythms and melodies

# End-of-Year Expectations

Fourth graders will know how to ...

	READING	WRITING
LITERACY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Analyze character's actions, traits, and change</li> <li>Determining theme in all genres</li> <li>Summarize and compare two nonfiction texts</li> <li>Using evidence to support all of the above actions</li> <li>Develop perspective and understanding of the author's craft</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Write opinion pieces that introduce an opinion, support it with reason and evidence, and provides a conclusion</li> <li>Write narrative pieces that retell either elaborated events that introduce the characters, use dialogue, transition words and details to develop the story, and provide a conclusion or ending</li> <li>Write informative pieces that introduce a topic, group information logically, include facts, quotations, and definitions, uses vocabulary specific to the topic, and a conclusion</li> <li>Use the writing process to strengthen writing by editing and revising</li> </ul>
MATH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use the four operations (+, -, x, /) with whole numbers to solve numerical and word problems</li> <li>Understand place value for multi-digit whole numbers (thru millions)</li> <li>Extend understanding of fraction equivalents and ordering</li> <li>Breaking apart fractions into easier to manage fractions (<math>5/6 = 2/6 + 1/2</math>)</li> <li>Converting decimals to fractions and vice versa</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Compare decimals and fractions (<math>&lt;</math>, <math>&gt;</math>, <math>=</math>)</li> <li>Identifying factors and multiples</li> <li>Converting measurements of metric/U.S. customary and time.</li> <li>Represent and interpret data</li> </ul>
SCIENCE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use evidence to construct an explanation relating the speed of an object to the energy of that object</li> <li>Make observations to provide evidence that energy can be transferred from place to place by sound, light, heat, and electric currents</li> <li>Ask questions and predict outcomes about the changes in energy that occur when objects collide</li> <li>Apply scientific ideas to design, test, and refine a device that converts energy from one form to another</li> <li>Develop a model of waves to describe patterns in terms of amplitude and wavelength and that waves can cause objects to move</li> <li>Develop a model to describe that light reflecting from objects and entering the eye allows objects to be seen</li> <li>Generate and compare multiple solutions that use patterns to transfer information</li> <li>Construct an argument that plants and animals have internal and external structures that function to support survival, growth, behavior, and reproduction</li> <li>Use a model to describe that animals receive different types of information through their senses, process the information in their brain, and respond to the information in different ways</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify evidence from patterns in rock formations and fossils in rock layers to support an explanation for changes in a landscape over time</li> <li>Make observations and/or measurements to provide evidence of the effects of weathering or the rate of erosion by water, ice, wind, or vegetation</li> <li>Analyze and interpret data from maps to describe patterns of Earth's features</li> <li>Obtain and combine information to describe that energy and fuels are derived from natural resources and their uses affect the environment</li> <li>Generate and compare multiple solutions to reduce the impacts of natural Earth processes on humans</li> <li>Define a simple design problem reflecting a need or a want that includes specified criteria for success and constraints on materials, time, or cost</li> <li>Generate and compare multiple possible solutions to a problem based on how well each is likely to meet the criteria and constraints of the problem</li> <li>Plan and carry out fair tests in which variables are controlled and failure points are considered to identify aspects of a model or prototype that can be improved</li> </ul>
SOCIAL STUDIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Articulate that groups of people have different beliefs and live their daily lives in different ways (Culture)</li> <li>Understand differences between a group, organization, and institution and how they influence others (Civics)</li> <li>Understand the roles and processes of government and how it influences the lives of its citizens (Civics)</li> <li>Understand how goods and services are distributed and produced (Economics)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explain how environment influences human activity (Geography)</li> <li>Identify and draw regions of Wisconsin including both physical and human characteristics (Geography)</li> <li>Describe how people in the past lived and how they are similar and different from people today (History)</li> </ul>

# Family Learning Activities

Practice these strategies at home in your family's native language as well as in English.

## LITERACY

- Encourage your child to read 20 min. daily.
- Read with your child and talk about the characters, including what they are like (traits), how they change and what they learn.
- Ask your child about the theme of their story and give you evidence from the story.
- Ask your child about the type of person the characters are in the story they are reading and give you evidence from the story.
- Help your child be responsible for any homework, reading logs, or projects.
- Practice writing through stories, letters, or poems.

## MATH

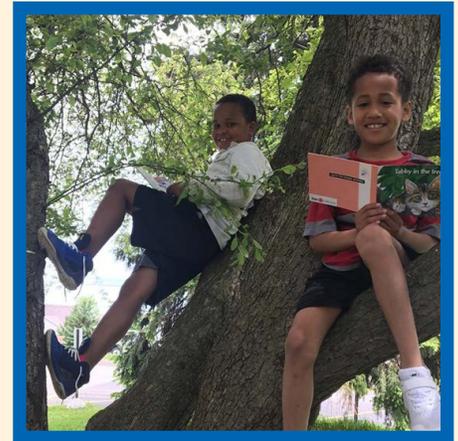
- Play math games.
- Practice addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division facts.
- Challenge your child to solve problems in everyday situations at home.
- Practice telling time (to the nearest minute) and solving elapsed time problems (i.e. It will take us 25 minutes to get to basketball practice. We need to be there at 6:30. What time do we need to leave?)

## SCIENCE

- Encourage your child to question and discuss things they notice about the world around them.
- Encourage your child to be curious by asking questions about how things work and investigating them.

## SOCIAL STUDIES

- Discuss events and local current news.
- Discuss where products you buy are made and how much they cost.
- Use maps to help get you places.
- Talk about voting and the candidates' stance on issues.



WE **welcome** OUR FAMILIES.

WE **honor** WHAT YOU BRING TO OUR LEARNING COMMUNITY.

WE WANT TO **partner** WITH YOU IN WAYS THAT HELP YOUR CHILD.

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