



# Common Developmental Stages & Milestones for Students in JK - 2nd Grade

- ❖ Understanding developmental stages can help you support your child's learning at home and school.
- ❖ All children move through these stages and changes, which are fairly predictable in the pattern they follow. They may go through these stages at different rates, and a child may go through one area of development more quickly or slowly than another.
- ❖ Children don't change suddenly on their birthday. Each age and stage is unique. Enjoy your child at each one!

	Junior Kindergarten				
	Kindergarten				
			1st Grade		
			2nd Grade		
<b>Social</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Friendly, talkative, "bubbly"</li> <li>Love being with friends, though still often play near, not with, a friend</li> <li>Learn from modeling and practice of appropriate behavior</li> <li>Can make decisions based on interests, but need adult advice</li> <li>Need adult help finding words to express needs</li> <li>Love "jobs" -- counting, attendance, putting out snack, etc.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Early in the year, like to help, follow rules, and be "good"</li> <li>Later may test or oppose adult authority or show uncertainty (not sure whether to be "good" or "naughty")</li> <li>Need consistent rules and enforcement, respond well to clear and simple expectations</li> <li>Need empathetic discipline as they test limits and make mistakes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Competitive, though not always good at sports, sometimes bossy or critical</li> <li>Either rush to be first or dawdle to be last</li> <li>Want to have friends, may have best friends</li> <li>Enjoy dressing up, putting on plays, etc. with other children</li> <li>Talkative and noisy</li> <li>Easily upset when criticized or discouraged</li> <li>Love encouragement, surprises, and treats</li> <li>Might test authority with tantrums, complaining, or tattling</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>May be moody, shy, sulky, touchy, appearing sometimes depressed</li> <li>Prefer playing and working alone or with one friend</li> <li>May change friendships quickly and feel "nobody likes me"</li> <li>Rely on adults for help and reassurance</li> <li>Need the security of rules, routines, and physical boundaries</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Love group activities and cooperative work</li> <li>Prefer playing with peers of the same gender</li> <li>Like to talk and explain ideas</li> <li>Good sense of humor</li> <li>Adjust well to change, bounce, back quickly from mistakes or disappointments</li> </ul>
<b>Physical</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vision tends to focus on faraway objects</li> <li>Often clumsy, collisions and spills are common</li> <li>Awkward with writing, handicrafts, and other small fine-motor movements</li> <li>Need lots of physical activity</li> <li>Able to sit still only for short periods</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Better control of running, jumping, and other large movements</li> <li>Need lots of physical activity, including free play</li> <li>Still awkward with writing, handicrafts, and other small movements</li> <li>Early in this stage, pace themselves well; later they tire more quickly</li> <li>Pencil grip changes from three-fingered to other grips</li> <li>Able to see close objects best, not yet able to sweep focus smoothly from left to right</li> <li>Read one word at a time</li> <li>Copying from board or chart is very hard</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Eyes are maturing, so reading is becoming easier, but copying from board or chart is still hard</li> <li>Often chew pencils, hair, or fingernails</li> <li>Bodies growing rapidly</li> <li>Like lots of physical activity</li> <li>Tire easily and get sick often</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Often keep their eyes focused on a small, close area</li> <li>Copying from board or chart is very hard</li> <li>With head on arm or desk, grasp pencil point tightly and write very small</li> <li>Can do quiet work for longer periods than earlier stages</li> <li>Can get sick from worrying about tests, assignments, etc.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Full of energy, play hard, work quickly, and tire easily</li> <li>Do better with several short play breaks than one long one</li> <li>Eyes able to focus well on objects near and far</li> <li>May have growth spurt</li> <li>Limited attention span, short exercise breaks help concentration</li> <li>Better control of eyes and hands allows copying from board or chart</li> </ul>
<b>Cognitive</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Need to move frequently from one activity and one classroom area to another</li> <li>Learn best by playing and exploring, such as through dress-up and drama</li> <li>Can do paper/pencil tasks only for very short periods</li> <li>Learn well through use of large muscles (easel painting, math manipulatives, large blocks, tumbling, and dancing)</li> <li>Love being read to</li> <li>Enjoy language, delighting in big words, long explanations, bathroom language, and swear words</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>See only one way to do things, rarely see other's viewpoints</li> <li>Imaginative and believe toys and other objects are alive</li> <li>Think very literally</li> <li>Often reverse letters and numbers</li> <li>Early on in this stage, like to copy and repeat activities, later like to try more new activities</li> <li>Often think out loud before acting "I'm going to move the truck."</li> <li>Learn best by exploring materials such as blocks, clay, finger paints, rocks, shells, etc.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Beginning to understand past and present and how and why things happen</li> <li>More able to see other viewpoints and understand reasons for rules</li> <li>Love new ideas and asking questions</li> <li>Learn well through games, poems, riddles, and songs</li> <li>Very ambitious, often choosing projects that are too hard</li> <li>Learn well from field trips and hands-on projects</li> <li>Like doing lots of work, not that concerned with the quality of the work</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Better at understanding ideas such as time, space, and quantity</li> <li>Learn new words and meanings quickly, enjoy writing stories</li> <li>Open to learning math</li> <li>Good at classifying, such as sorting buttons, pictures, leaves and shapes</li> <li>Listen well and speak precisely</li> <li>Enjoy hands on exploration of how things work</li> <li>Bothered by mistakes and try hard to make their work perfect</li> <li>Like to work slowly and finish what they start</li> <li>Enjoy repeating tasks and reviewing learning</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Industrious, impatient, and full of ideas, often take on more than they can handle</li> <li>Listen well but may not always remember what they've heard</li> <li>Getting good at handwriting, handicrafts, and drawing</li> <li>Excited but also nervous about exploring the broader world</li> <li>May give up when things are hard but soon want to try again</li> <li>Interested in rules, logic, and fairness</li> </ul>


# Common Developmental Stages & Milestones for Students in 2nd - 4th Grade

- ❖ Understanding developmental stages can help you support your child's learning at home and school.
- ❖ All children move through these stages and changes, which are fairly predictable in the pattern they follow. They may go through these stages at different rates, and a child may go through one area of development more quickly or slowly than another.
- ❖ Children don't change suddenly on their birthday. Each age and stage is unique. Enjoy your child at each one!

	2nd Grade			
	3rd Grade			
	4th Grade			
<b>Social</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● May be moody, shy, sulky, touchy, appearing sometimes depressed</li> <li>● Prefer playing and working alone or with one friend</li> <li>● May change friendships quickly and feel “nobody likes me”</li> <li>● Rely on adults for help and reassurance</li> <li>● Need the security of rules, routines, and physical boundaries</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Love group activities and cooperative work</li> <li>● Prefer playing with peers of the same gender</li> <li>● Like to talk and explain ideas</li> <li>● Good sense of humor</li> <li>● Adjust well to change, bounce, back quickly from mistakes or disappointments</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Very competitive, yet may form cliques</li> <li>● Complain a lot; criticize self and others (including adults)</li> <li>● Often say ‘I hate it’, ‘I can’t’, ‘It’s boring’ etc.</li> <li>● Like to work with same-gender partner</li> <li>● Can work in groups but with lots of arguing</li> <li>● Enjoy exaggeration and “dirty” jokes</li> <li>● Need adults to be patient and explain clearly</li> <li>● Need adult lightheartedness, humor, and encouragement to lighten their mood and relieve anxiety</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Good age for clubs, team sports, and whole-class activities</li> <li>● Eager to reach out to others, such as through community service or tutoring younger children</li> <li>● Boys and girls work well together</li> <li>● Quick to anger and quick to forgive</li> <li>● Competitive but also cooperative</li> <li>● Listen well but also enjoy talking and explaining</li> <li>● Enjoy adult recognition</li> </ul>
<b>Physical</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Often keep their eyes focused on a small, close area</li> <li>● Copying from board or chart is very hard</li> <li>● With head on arm or desk, grasp pencil point tightly and write very small</li> <li>● Can do quiet work for longer periods than earlier stages</li> <li>● Can get sick from worrying about tests, assignments, etc.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Full of energy, play hard, work quickly, and tire easily</li> <li>● Do better with several short play breaks than one long one</li> <li>● Eyes able to focus well on objects near and far</li> <li>● May have growth spurt</li> <li>● Limited attention span, short exercise breaks help concentration</li> <li>● Better control of eyes and hands allows copying from board or chart</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Coordination is better, boys love to rough-house</li> <li>● Like to push physical limits; get tired easily</li> <li>● Complain about aches, pains, and injuries</li> <li>● Restless, can't sit still for long</li> <li>● May bite nails or twist hair to relieve tension</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Muscles for jumping, running, and other big movements are developing quickly</li> <li>● Need lots of outdoor play and physical challenges</li> <li>● Snacks and rest periods help rapidly growing bodies</li> <li>● Better at small muscle movements, enjoy precision tasks such as tracing and copying</li> <li>● Ready to start using tools such as compasses, rules, and templates</li> </ul>
<b>Cognitive</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Better at understanding ideas such as time, space, and quantity</li> <li>● Learn new words and meanings quickly, enjoy writing stories</li> <li>● Open to learning math</li> <li>● Good at classifying, such as sorting buttons, pictures, leaves and shapes</li> <li>● Listen well and speak precisely</li> <li>● Enjoy hands on exploration of how things work</li> <li>● Bothered by mistakes and try hard to make their work perfect</li> <li>● Like to work slowly and finish what they start</li> <li>● Enjoy repeating tasks and reviewing learning</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Industrious, impatient, and full of ideas, often take on more than they can handle</li> <li>● Listen well but may not always remember what they've heard</li> <li>● Getting good at handwriting, handcrafts, and drawing</li> <li>● Excited but also nervous about exploring the broader world</li> <li>● May give up when things are hard but soon want to try again</li> <li>● Interested in rules, logic, and fairness</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Worry about world events, parents' health, friends, school, etc.</li> <li>● Work hard and pay attention to detail, but may jump quickly between interests</li> <li>● Less imaginative than at eight-years-old</li> <li>● Want factual explanations; enjoy scientific exploration</li> <li>● Have trouble understanding abstractions such as large numbers, long periods of time, and vast areas of space</li> <li>● Love language and word play</li> <li>● Begin to see the bigger world including issues of justice and fairness</li> <li>● Enjoy “interest” clubs such as arts and crafts, chess, sports</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Improving at memorizing facts</li> <li>● Enjoy collecting, organizing, and classifying</li> <li>● Like rules and logic, open to learning about scientific principles, governmental structures, and meeting formats</li> <li>● Can concentrate on reading and thinking for longer periods</li> <li>● Hardworking, take more pride in school work</li> <li>● Enjoy choral reading, poetry, plays, and singing</li> <li>● Open to learning mediation or problem solving-skills</li> </ul>

# Common Developmental Stages & Milestones for Students in 4th - 6th Grade

- ❖ Understanding developmental stages can help you support your child's learning at home and school.
- ❖ All children move through these stages and changes, which are fairly predictable in the pattern they follow. They may go through these stages at different rates, and a child may go through one area of development more quickly or slowly than another.
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	4th Grade		5th Grade		6th Grade	
<b>Social</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Very competitive, yet may form cliques</li> <li>• Complain a lot; criticize self and others (including adults)</li> <li>• Often say 'I hate it', 'I can't', 'It's boring' etc.</li> <li>• Like to work with same-gender partner</li> <li>• Can work in groups but with lots of arguing</li> <li>• Enjoy exaggeration and "dirty" jokes</li> <li>• Need adults to be patient and explain clearly</li> <li>• Need adult lightheartedness, humor, and encouragement to lighten their mood and relieve anxiety</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Good age for clubs, team sports, and whole-class activities</li> <li>• Eager to reach out to others, such as through community service or tutoring younger children</li> <li>• Boys and girls work well together</li> <li>• Quick to anger and quick to forgive</li> <li>• Competitive but also cooperative</li> <li>• Listen well but also enjoy talking and explaining</li> <li>• Enjoy adult recognition</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Moody, self-absorbed</li> <li>• Easily embarrassed; need to "save face" in front of peers</li> <li>• Sensitive about their changing bodies</li> <li>• Need lots of time to talk with peers</li> <li>• Common age for girls to form cliques</li> <li>• Worry about who's "in" and who's "out"</li> <li>• Like to challenge rules, argue, and test limits</li> <li>• Need adult empathy, humor, and light attitude to help them take things less seriously</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Peer opinions matter more than those of teachers and parents</li> <li>• Question and argue with adults about rules; need adults to listen to their ideas</li> <li>• More willing to accept guidance from adults other than teachers and parents</li> <li>• Need ceremonies and rituals to mark turning points on their way to adulthood</li> <li>• Capable of self-awareness, insight, and empathy</li> <li>• Can take on major responsibilities such as running a school store or raising money</li> <li>• Careless with "unimportant" things such as cleaning their room and keeping track of assignments</li> <li>• Like both group and individual work</li> </ul>		
<b>Physical</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordination is better, boys love to rough-house</li> <li>• Like to push physical limits; get tired easily</li> <li>• Complain about aches, pains, and injuries</li> <li>• Restless, can't sit still for long</li> <li>• May bite nails or twist hair to relieve tension</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Muscles for jumping, running, and other big movements are developing quickly</li> <li>• Need lots of outdoor play and physical challenges</li> <li>• Snacks and rest periods help rapidly growing bodies</li> <li>• Better at small muscle movements, enjoy precision tasks such as tracing and copying</li> <li>• Ready to start using tools such as compasses, rules, and templates</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Restless and very energetic</li> <li>• Need lots of food, physical activity, and sleep</li> <li>• Growth spurt for many girls; some begin menstruating</li> <li>• "Growing pains" (bone outgrowing muscle) may cause nightly aches and daily complaints</li> <li>• More colds, ear infections, flu, etc.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Very energetic; need lots of sleep, exercise, and food (including in-school snack)</li> <li>• Enjoy physical education and sports</li> <li>• Boys and girls both have growth spurts</li> <li>• Girls show signs of puberty; most are menstruating</li> </ul>		
<b>Cognitive</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Worry about world events, parents' health, friends, school, etc.</li> <li>• Work hard and pay attention to detail, but may jump quickly between interests</li> <li>• Less imaginative than at eight-years-old</li> <li>• Want factual explanations; enjoy scientific exploration</li> <li>• Have trouble understanding abstractions such as large numbers, long periods of time, and vast areas of space</li> <li>• Love language and word play</li> <li>• Begin to see the bigger world including issues of justice and fairness</li> <li>• Enjoy "interest" clubs such as arts and crafts, chess, sports</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improving at memorizing facts</li> <li>• Enjoy collecting, organizing, and classifying</li> <li>• Like rules and logic, open to learning about scientific principles, governmental structures, and meeting formats</li> <li>• Can concentrate on reading and thinking for longer periods</li> <li>• Hardworking, take more pride in school work</li> <li>• Enjoy choral reading, poetry, plays, and singing</li> <li>• Open to learning mediation or problem solving-skills</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can think abstractly--for example, more able to understand ideas such as "justice"</li> <li>• Beginning to challenge adult explanations and their own assumptions</li> <li>• Would rather learn new skills than review or improve previous work</li> <li>• Enjoy using their developing thinking skills to do brain teasers and puzzles</li> <li>• Like "adult" tasks (researching, interviewing, footnoting, etc.) and "adult" studies (history, biography, etc.), though may outwardly fuss while secretly enjoying the work</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• May begin to excel at a subject (such as science) or skill (such as drawing)</li> <li>• Understand and enjoy sarcasm, double meanings, and more sophisticated jokes</li> <li>• Enthusiastic about schoolwork they see as purposeful, such as research projects, science experiments, and drama productions</li> <li>• Can set goals and concentrate well</li> <li>• Very interested in civics, history, current events, environmental issues, and social justice</li> </ul>		

# Common Developmental Stages & Milestones for Students in 6th - 8th Grade

❖ Understanding developmental stages can help you support your child's learning at home and school.

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	6th Grade		7th Grade		8th Grade	
<b>Social</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Moody, self-absorbed</li> <li>Easily embarrassed; need to "save face" in front of peers</li> <li>Sensitive about their changing bodies</li> <li>Need lots of time to talk with peers</li> <li>Common age for girls to form cliques</li> <li>Worry about who's "in" and who's "out"</li> <li>Like to challenge rules, argue, and test limits</li> <li>Need adult empathy, humor, and light attitude to help them take things less seriously</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Peer opinions matter more than those of teachers and parents</li> <li>Question and argue with adults about rules; need adults to listen to their ideas</li> <li>More willing to accept guidance from adults other than teachers and parents</li> <li>Need ceremonies and rituals to mark turning points on their way to adulthood</li> <li>Capable of self-awareness, insight, and empathy</li> <li>Can take on major responsibilities such as running a school store or raising money</li> <li>Careless with "unimportant" things such as cleaning their room and keeping track of assignments</li> <li>Like both group and individual work</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Moody and sensitive; anger can flare up suddenly</li> <li>Feelings are easily hurt; can easily hurt others' feelings</li> <li>Very concerned about personal appearance</li> <li>Like to be left alone when home</li> <li>Prefer working alone or with one partner</li> <li>Spend hours on the phone or computer, and with video games and TV</li> <li>Decorate their bedrooms to show personality and independence</li> <li>A lot of peer pressure in what to wear, how to talk, what music to listen to</li> <li>Girls tend to focus on close friendships; boys tend to travel in small groups or gangs</li> <li>Challenge the ideas and authority of parents and teachers</li> <li>Answer parents with a single word or loud, extreme language</li> <li>Often mean (may stem from being insecure or scared)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Need adult connection even while fighting for their own identity</li> <li>Need adults to listen and negotiate rules and requirements</li> <li>Fiercely criticize parents' dress, ideas, friends, etc.</li> <li>Mimic adult behaviour but resent adult lectures</li> <li>"Know it all", can be extremely oppositional</li> <li>May be troublesome at home while excelling at school</li> <li>Work hard at creating teen subculture</li> <li>Typically loud and rambunctious</li> <li>Can rise up to leadership challenges in student council, peer tutoring, etc.</li> <li>Need safe, positive rites of passage</li> <li>Work well in small groups</li> <li>Both boys and girls are more interested in sex; some are sexually active</li> </ul>		
<b>Physical</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Restless and very energetic</li> <li>Need lots of food, physical activity, and sleep</li> <li>Growth spurt for many girls; some begin menstruating</li> <li>"Growing pains" (bone outgrowing muscle) may cause nightly aches and daily complaints</li> <li>More colds, ear infections, flu, etc.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Very energetic; need lots of sleep, exercise, and food (including in-school snack)</li> <li>Enjoy physical education and sports</li> <li>Boys and girls both have growth spurts</li> <li>Girls show signs of puberty; most are menstruating</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lots of physical energy</li> <li>Skin problems are common; hygiene becomes more important</li> <li>Most girls are menstruating and have almost reached full physical development</li> <li>Most boys are showing first signs of puberty (will reach full development at age fourteen or fifteen) and are physically awkward</li> <li>Changing bodies make gym, health, and sex education embarrassing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Very energetic, generally healthy; most would rather go to school than stay home sick in order to be with peers</li> <li>Need lots of exercise, snacks, sleep</li> <li>Girls almost fully developed</li> <li>Boys may continue growth spurts and show signs of puberty</li> </ul>		
<b>Cognitive</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Can think abstractly--for example, more able to understand ideas such as "justice"</li> <li>Beginning to challenge adult explanations and their own assumptions</li> <li>Would rather learn new skills than review or improve previous work</li> <li>Enjoy using their developing thinking skills to do brain teasers and puzzles</li> <li>Like "adult" tasks (researching, interviewing, footnoting, etc.) and "adult" studies (history, biography, etc.), though may outwardly fuss while secretly enjoying the work</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>May begin to excel at a subject (such as science) or skill (such as drawing)</li> <li>Understand and enjoy sarcasm, double meanings, and more sophisticated jokes</li> <li>Enthusiastic about schoolwork they see as purposeful, such as research projects, science experiments, and drama productions</li> <li>Can set goals and concentrate well</li> <li>Very interested in civics, history, current events, environmental issues, and social justice</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tentative, worried, unwilling to take risks on tough intellectual tasks</li> <li>Interested in fairness, justice, discrimination, etc.</li> <li>Often write better than they speak, so better at written work than oral explanations</li> <li>Need short, predictable homework assignments to build good study habits</li> <li>Starting to enjoy thinking about the many sides of an issue</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Better at thinking abstractly- for example, understanding ideas such as "freedom"</li> <li>Enjoy individual skills (music, art, etc.)</li> <li>Like technology and learning how things work</li> <li>Respond well to variety and challenge; enjoy research</li> <li>Complain about homework, but often the challenge</li> <li>Like having a chance to revise and improve work</li> <li>Often say "I'm bored" to mean "I don't understand"</li> <li>May see academic success as "nerdy" and "uncool"</li> </ul>		