



A PARENT/CAREGIVER'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>• Read and write grade-appropriate irregularly spelled words, and use knowledge of syllabication patterns and morphology to read unfamiliar multisyllabic words.</li> <li>• Read orally with accuracy, fluency, appropriate pacing, purpose, and understanding.</li> <li>• Use evidence to summarize a theme or central idea and compare and contrast information from literary and informational texts.</li> <li>• Identify and analyze the structural organization of texts.</li> <li>• Explain how the author's points are supported with relevant reasons or evidence based on other texts, cultural perspectives, identities, eras, and personal events.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Write informative pieces that group information found from print and digital sources into paragraphs and sections, using formatting and multimedia to develop points.</li> <li>• Write short stories using narrative techniques such as dialogue, description, and pacing to develop characters and their response to situations.</li> <li>• Write opinion pieces that introduce the topic, state an opinion, and create an organizational structure in which related ideas are grouped to support the writer's claim.</li> <li>• Strengthen writing through planning, revising, peer reviews, and editing.</li> </ul>
MATH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use multiplication or division to solve word problems comparing amounts, and interpret equations like <math>35 = 5 \times 7</math> as "35 is 5 times 7" and "7 times 5".</li> <li>• Understand place value (each digit's value is 10 times the value of the digit to its right), and describe comparisons of value using symbols (<math>&gt;</math> <math>=</math> <math>&lt;</math>).</li> <li>• Efficiently add and subtract large numbers using place value, operations properties, or rules.</li> <li>• Understand equivalent fractions by comparing visual models. Recognize and generate equivalent fractions. Compare fractions of different sizes by considering their common parts or sizes in visual models.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understand adding and subtracting fractions as combining or separating parts. Break fractions into a sum of smaller fractions, add/subtract with like or related denominators, and solve word problems.</li> <li>• Express fractions with denominator 10 as equivalent fractions with denominator 100. Add fractions using this technique. For example, <math>3/10 + 4/100</math>.</li> <li>• Use decimals for tenths and hundredths, connect to real-world situations, and represent with visual models like number lines.</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.

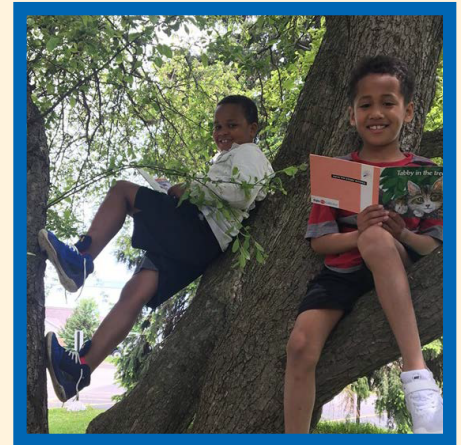
## LITERACY

- Create a quiet, special place in your home for your child to read, write, and draw. Set a good example of how reading is an important, healthy habit. Develop conversation skills around reading by asking your child's opinion on various topics.
- Show joy and interest in words or dramatic descriptions found when reading. Give your child sticky notes to record new words and ideas. This will help them develop skills in keeping track of facts or events and relationships between characters.
- Find books, blogs, and articles about topics your child is interested in learning. Discuss what you learned over dinner or in the car ride to/from school.
- Talk about the characters in books each of you are reading and how they are similar to characters in your favorite TV shows and movies.
- Have fun with figurative language in everyday life. Use and explain some popular ones, such as "My friend's sister is a night owl," "My hands were like icicles," "That table would cost me an arm and a leg," or "I will have to take a raincheck on that."
- Play a 10-finger summary challenge after reading a book by identifying the main topic or central idea using one word for each finger!



## MATH

- Play fact fluency math games, and use strategies taught in class to solve subtraction, multiplication, and division facts.
- Practice telling time (to the nearest minute) and solving elapsed time problems (e.g., "It will take us 25 minutes to get to basketball practice... We need to arrive at 6:30... What time should we leave?").
- To build comfort and flexibility in using place value and decimals, use money together in the community. Ask your child to estimate how much something might cost, how much money they will have with them, and how much money will be left after the purchase.
- Build fractions using Play-Doh, paper plates, or Legos. If your child likes basketball, have them create a fraction for the baskets they got in, out of 10 tries. (The denominator would be 10.)
- Share with your child how to measure ingredients when cooking and baking, noticing fractions, ounces, grams, kilograms, and liters. Occasionally, break some fractions when preparing food (e.g., to get  $\frac{3}{4}$  cup of flour, I sometimes use  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup +  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup).



## 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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