



## ***4th Grade Developmental Guide***

**The biggest change in development for 4th graders is the change in friendships. All of a sudden, they care what others think of them and want to fit in. Your child probably has at least one very close friend this year that they enjoy spending time with.**

**Here are some of the developmental changes they are experiencing right now.**

### **Physical**

- Are ready for competitive and cooperative games
- Are physically maturing (Girls physically mature faster than boys.)
- May engage in habitual movements like nail biting, hair twisting, etc.

### **Emotional**

- Attempt to resolve conflict before involving adults; understand that not everyone views things the way they do
- Are no longer egocentric
- Have a high level of emotional intensity
- Can be self-critical
- May worry

### **Relational**

- Gravitate toward certain friends
- Need encouragement
- Begin to care about social issues
- See adults as fallible, realizing their inconsistencies
- Have a strong desire to fit in
- May begin to show interest in opposite sex

- May become deeply attached to a best friend

### **Spiritual**

- Are concerned about being right or wrong and being fair
- Have a strong tension between being a child and pushing toward independence
- Benefit from some freedom to exercise their growing independence
- View fairness and justice as big themes in their lives