



Student Characteristics – Elementary School

Kindergarten-5 year olds

Children begin to combine simple ideas into more complex relations. As a result, they need an environment rich in printed materials that stimulates the development of language and literacy skills. They also need a variety of direct experiences to develop cognitively, physically, emotionally and socially.

First Grade-6 year olds

These children are active learners and demonstrate considerable verbal skills. They are interested in games and rules and develop concepts and problem-solving skills from these experiences. Hands-on activity and experimentation are important.

Second Grade-7 year olds

As seasoned veterans of two years of schooling, these children are increasingly able to reason, listen to others and show social give-and-take. They can display flexibility, open-mindedness and tolerance of unfamiliar ideas to a remarkable extent.

Kindergarten, First, and Second graders are very active and don't sit still for long; they enjoy moving around the classroom. They are very talkative. Their attention span is short and they may have a hard time finishing what they start. These students are very curious and they tend to get excited and love to learn. Most students are very honest at this age and they love to play.

Third Grade-8 year olds

These children combine great curiosity with increased social interest. They are able to learn about people who live elsewhere in the world, but their understanding of what they read is dependent upon relating ideas to their own experience.

Fourth Grade-9 year olds

These children are somewhat self-conscious and prefer group activities to working alone. They are also beginning to understand abstractions as well as cause-and-effect relationships, but need real experience in social settings.

Fifth Grade-10 year olds

These youngsters may be experiencing bodily changes and rapid growth spurts, which cause periods of frustration and anger. They generally are interested in and enthusiastic about places and problems in the news and want to know who and what caused these problems, and where they occurred.

Third, Fourth, and Fifth graders can be very competitive and tend to get noisy and excited. They value fair play and expect adults to adhere to rules. Many students are peer-conscious and may be very concerned about what classmates think. They like participating in group activities. They are often inquisitive and need to express their opinions. Boys and girls begin to discover one another and begin to interact.