

BABIES

Spiritual

- develop a sense of trust as needs are met consistently
- sense attitudes and expressions of love
- learn to associate God's name with love and trust
- sense importance associated with Jesus and the Bible
- may point to the Bible and pictures of Jesus

Social/Emotional

- show alertness when talked to
- smile broadly at others
- begin to initiate social interchange
- become quiet in unfamiliar settings
- make eye contact
- are interested in other children

Mental

- use senses to learn
- cry to signal pain or distress
- recognize principle caregivers
- use vocal and non-vocal communication
- react differently to familiar and unfamiliar
- know and respond to name

Physical

- use many complex reflexes
- begin to reach toward objects
- hold up their heads
- sit without support
- roll over and crawl
- look for dropped toys



Characteristics of Preschoolers and Children

ONES

Spiritual

- begin to make simple choices
- continue to grow in trust of adults
- begin to distinguish between acceptable and unacceptable behavior
- begin to recognize simple pictures of Jesus

Social/Emotional

- experience stranger anxiety
- play simple games
- can practice taking turns
- like to exert control
- recognize others' emotions
- imitate household actions

Mental

- remember simple events
- begin to grasp familiar objects
- use trial and error in learning
- can label body parts
- understand and use words for items
- try to make self understood

Physical

- sit well in chairs
- climb
- love to explore
- use markers on paper
- carry objects from place to place
- move constantly



Characteristics of Preschoolers and Children

TWOS

Spiritual

- can sing simple songs about God and Jesus
- can say thank-you to God
- can listen to Bible stories

Social/Emotional

- take interest in family
- try to help
- initiate play with peers
- can be loving and affectionate
- are responsive to others' moods
- use imagination
- strongly assert independence

Mental

- use 5 to 300 words
- begin using sentences
- identify self by gender
- follow simple directions in order
- match, compare, group, and sort items
- enjoy repetition
- begin using numbers
- repeat songs
- know colors

Physical

- develop preference for right or left hand
- stand on one foot and balance
- jump on tiptoes
- walk between parallel lines
- have better gross-motor coordination
- have difficulty relaxing
- help undress self



THREES

Spiritual

- can sing simple songs about God and Jesus
- can say thank-you to God
- can listen to Bible stories

Social/Emotional

- take interest in family
- try to help
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Characteristics of Preschoolers and Children

FOURS

Spiritual

- like to retell Bible stories
- enjoy Bible-verse games
- recognize that God and Jesus love people and help people in special ways
- accept responsibility for helping people
- exhibit a conscience

Social/Emotional

- have total confidence in own abilities
- are bossy; show great independence
- tattle frequently
- focus on cooperative play and take turns
- like to be helpers if they initiate the idea
- respond to reason, humor, and firmness

Mental

- can remember name and address
- have increased attention span
- can do two things at once
- are highly imaginative; cannot separate fact and fantasy
- show a curiosity about life cycle
- understand time concepts better
- use 500 to 2000 words
- enjoy being silly

Physical

- show good large muscle coordination
- develop a longer, leaner body
- develop fine motor control for cutting with scissors, painting, and drawing
- walk backward
- need a high level of physical activity



PRE-KINDERGARTNERS

Spiritual

- begin to ask questions about God
- express love for God and Jesus
- can recall simple Bible stories
- can make life application of Bible verses
- may show concern for others
- can sing songs about Jesus
- continue to develop a conscience

Social/Emotional

- play cooperatively with other children
- enjoy imitating adults
- begin to distinguish truth from lies
- enjoy competition
- are learning to share and take turns
- can accept responsibility

Mental

- are challenged by new tasks
- seek explanations concerning why and how
- begin to recognize basic reading words
- enjoy classification, sequencing, and sorting
- use many words without knowing their meanings
- use a vocabulary of 2000 plus words

Physical

- have good eye-hand coordination
- dress self
- exhibit right and left handedness
- can control their large muscles
- enjoy building materials with parts to assemble
- develop appetites for favorite foods
- are learning to print and copy words



KINDERGARTNERS

Spiritual

- remember and like to tell Bible stories
- use the Bible and like to find Bible phrases/verses
- like to know they are doing what the Bible says
- sing songs about God and Jesus
- try to help and love other people
- like to take care of God's world
- continue developing a conscience
- express guilt for misbehavior

Social/Emotional

- get along well in small groups
- comfort friends who are upset
- have best friends, but change friends often
- like to please adults
- may be prone to self-criticism and guilt
- enjoy group play
- play easy games with a friend, following rules
- may continue to express fears

Mental

- can print name, but not too clearly
- know colors and shapes
- can name most uppercase letters
- can read a few words
- utilize a vocabulary of 2000 plus words
- say numbers from 1 to 100
- know morning from afternoon
- hear the beginning sounds of words

Physical

- skip well; hop in a straight line
- display good eye-hand coordination
- cut well with scissors
- exhibit well-established right or left handedness
- begin cutting permanent teeth
- dress and undress well alone
- girls may display more maturity than boys



Characteristics of Preschoolers and Children

FIRST AND SECOND GRADERS

Spiritual

- like learning from the Bible
- are interested in God's wonders in nature
- are making conclusions about God and regard Jesus as a friend
- are learning right from wrong
- can take some responsibility for own actions
- understand truth and honesty

Social/Emotional

- can be self-critical
- evaluate own conduct based on the conduct of others
- may cry easily when scolded
- are sensitive to what others think, and want approval
- use own experiences to understand others
- fight with words and like to brag
- need frequent reassurance
- may avoid new or difficult situations
- are often talkative
- need to succeed in challenging situations

Mental

- have a good memory
- cannot think abstractly
- can follow directions
- enjoy reading and being read to
- are creative and enjoy creative play
- frequently ask teachers for help
- want work to be perfect and are afraid to fail
- can become deeply absorbed in activities
- are beginning to understand money and the benefits of an allowance
- want to be independent but do not want to make mistakes
- like all kinds of games

Physical

- are developing small muscles
- are active using entire body
- have difficulty sitting for long periods of time and may tire easily
- like using hands
- do not have well-developed eye-hand coordination



Characteristics of Preschoolers and Children

THIRD AND FOURTH GRADERS

Spiritual

- ask serious questions about religion
- are often beginning to feel the need for a Savior
- are developing values
- can be truthful and honest
- are growing conscious of self and of sin
- have difficulty making decisions
- want to do things the right way and may feel ashamed when wrong
- think in terms of right and wrong more than good and evil

Social/Emotional

- need to be able to let off steam and may take out feelings on others
- like peers of the same sex and dislike the opposite sex
- are eager to please and want to be liked by peers and adults
- are interested in own community and country
- are beginning to feel that the group is as important as self
- boys shout; girls giggle and whisper
- are great talkers and need to be allowed to talk
- change moods quickly
- worship heroes
- like to work with others

Mental

- attention spans are lengthening
- are able to be involved in experiences that deal with feelings and thinking
- like to experiment and find out how things are made
- vary with peers in reading ability
- value money
- accept carefully worded criticism
- are beginning to think abstractly
- are eager to learn

Physical

- have good eye-hand coordination
- may overdo it with physical activities and have trouble calming down
- like to draw and sketch
- have slow, steady growth and good muscle control; girls usually developing more quickly than boys



Characteristics of Preschoolers and Children

PRETEENS

Spiritual

- have concepts of love and trust
- have formed concepts of personal worth
- feel deeply about own experiences; can be sensitive to others
- beginning to adopt a religious belief system of their own
- are ready for spiritual answers and directions
- are developing a conscience and a value system
- can make many choices, but may not follow through on long-term commitments

Social/Emotional

- are motivated most by own interest and think of self, using own experiences
- are aware of sex roles; have changing attitudes toward the opposite sex
- can accept rules, organizations, responsibilities, and leader-follower roles
- can operate comfortably within a group
- have deep need for companionship and approval of peers
- like to win and improve on achievements
- like acceptance and encouragement; can become easily discouraged
- recognize and appreciate individual differences
- are ready for responsibilities and opportunities for self-direction
- are easily influenced emotionally and can cope with some feelings

Mental

- are beginning to think abstractly
- are capable of deep thoughts
- are imaginative, creative, and curious
- can distinguish between fact and fiction
- have developed basic reading and writing skills
- can accept and work toward short-term goals
- can cope with success and failure
- can concentrate when interested
- think quickly and memorize easily
- can discern time and space relationships
- can express ideas, understand cause and effect, solve problems, and plan

Physical

- like to use abundant energy and physical skills
- are approaching puberty; girls are usually ahead of boys
- have good coordination and muscle skills

