



“Each child is unique and develops at their own pace, but there are predictable patterns in child and adolescent development. This guide is intended to help you identify and understand these patterns so that you can better support your child’s learning at home and in school.” (Yardsticks/Responsive Classroom, Chip Wood)

Fourth Grade (age range is 9 - 10 years old)


Physical Development:

- Coordination is improving
- Likes to push physical limits; gets tired easily
- Complains about aches, pains, and injuries
- Restless; can’t sit still for long
- May bite nails or twist hair to relieve tension
- Muscles are developing quickly for jumping, running, and other gross motor movements
- Needs lots of outdoor play and physical challenges
- Snacks and rest periods help rapidly growing bodies
- Better at small muscle movements; enjoy precision tasks such as tracing and copying
- Ready to start using tools such as compasses, rulers, and templates

Social-Emotional/Academic Development: *(*this does not apply to every student but is what we find in most)*

- Likes group activities and cooperative work
- Complains a lot; criticizes self and others (including adults)
- Listens well, but may not always remember what they’ve heard
- Enjoys talking and explaining
- Often says “I hate it,” “I can’t,” “It’s boring,” etc.
- Needs adults to be patient and explain clearly
- Needs adult lightheartedness, humor, and encouragement to lighten their mood and relieve anxiety

Throughout the year your fourth grade student will experience...

<p><u>Phys Ed</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Learning procedures and skills for playing basketball, floor hockey, soccer, and volleyball ● Collaborating with others ● Following dance steps to follow sequences ● Learning proper techniques for specific exercises 	<p><u>Health</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Character education lessons with core ethical values ● Developing short and long term goals ● Application of the six dimensions of wellness (physical, emotional, social, intellectual, occupational, environmental) to their own lives ● Creating a balanced healthy meal ● Preparing an emergency plan for home ● Learning about the prevention, transmission, and treatment of communicable diseases 	<p><u>Social Emotional Learning</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Participating in mindful meditation practices ● Participating in character education lessons ● Participating in classroom activities to build community ● Developing the skills needed to self regulate emotions 	<p><u>Library</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Learning how to independently search the online catalog for specific topics, for example historical fiction, biographies, realistic fiction, nonfiction ● Searching, writing down a call number, finding and checking out their own books ● Listening to stories ● Exploring and using the PebbleGoNext database and Worldbook Online encyclopedia
<p><u>Technology</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Learning how to use technology apps to create projects (i.e. Google slides, forms, documents, spreadsheets) while being responsible digital citizens 	<p><u>World Language</u></p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Learning how to have a conversation in Spanish by greeting others and asking and answering questions ● Learning how to write basic words and phrases in Spanish ● Identifying geographical locations of Spanish speaking countries 	<p><u>Art</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Different uses of media, techniques, and 	
<p><u>Music</u></p> <p><u>Instrumental Music:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Demonstrating the basic steps of playing 			

- an instrument
- Reading and playing music exercises both independently and in groups

Vocal Music:

- Listening to and performing various rhythmic exercises
- Learning about different composers and diverse music from the world
- Recognizing notes to perform on instruments
- Singing

processes to communicate ideas, experiences, and stories

- Identifying specific works of art as belonging to particular cultures, times, and places



By the end of Grade Four, your child will know how to...

Reading

- Determine the theme of a story
- Summarize both fictional and informational text
- Reference modern day allusions in text and multimedia
- Identify morals or lessons learned in literature
- Compare and contrast different text structures on the same topic
- Identify and explain the purpose of various text features and how they help with understanding text
- Conduct research and cite sources
- Participate in book clubs
- Identify elements of poetry and analyze how they impact the poem's theme, meaning and/or tone
- Recognize that biography authors write about important events, challenges and influences in the person's life, and their contributions to society

Writing

- Use the writing process to strengthen writing by editing and revising
- Write stories using different points of view
- Publish a nonfiction book that introduces a topic, includes facts and/or quotes and/or definitions, uses specific vocabulary related to the topic, and provides a conclusion section
- Compose literary analysis pieces that make a claim about a character, include evidence to support their claim, and elaborate ideas
- Write opinion pieces that state an opinion, support it with reasons and evidence, and provides a conclusion
- Write narrative pieces that retell actual events or events that introduce the characters, use dialogue, transition words and details to develop the story, and provide a conclusion or ending
- Craft poems of various formats
- Produce speeches

Social Studies

- Identify key events that led to the Revolutionary War
- Identify key historical documents and people that helped to develop our government
- Explain reasons for immigration to the United States
- Identify contributions to American society that came from other countries of origin
- Identify and explain the five regions of the United States and different features that contribute to tourism
- Understand how goods and services are produced and distributed, how to create a budget, and describe how supply and demand influence price and output of products

Practice these skills at home ~

- *Encourage your child to read 30 minutes daily*
- *Read with your child and ask questions about character traits, how they change, lessons learned and identify a theme of a story, provide text evidence*
- *Assist your child with being responsible for any homework, reading logs, projects*

Practice these skills at home ~

- *Practice writing by keeping a journal, creating stories, writing letters, or poems*



Practice these skills at home ~

- *Discuss local news and current events*
- *Use maps to locate places, giving directions*
- *Talk about voting and the candidates' stance on issues*
- *Visit historical places in our region (i.e. Washington's Crossing, the American Revolution Museum)*

Science

- Make observations and provide explanations to support ideas
- Recognize examples of both physical and chemical weathering and erosion
- Identify different types of maps and explain what we can learn from them (i.e. topographic, physical)
- Construct an argument that plants and animals have internal and external structures that function to support survival, growth, behavior, and reproduction
- Develop a model to describe that light reflecting from objects and entering the eye allows objects to be seen
- Identify different types of renewable and nonrenewable resources and explain the impact they have on Earth
- Explain different sources of kinetic and potential energy
- Develop a model of waves to describe patterns in terms of amplitude and wavelength and that waves can cause objects to move

Math

- Use the four operations (+, -, x, /) with whole numbers to solve numerical and word problems
- Understand concepts related to place value with multi-digit numbers through the millions (rounding, comparing, reading, word form)
- Represent and interpret data (i.e. line plots, bar graphs)
- Converting measurements using both the Customary and Metric system and time
- Identify factors, multiples, prime and composite numbers
- Generate and describe features of a number pattern
- Understand fraction equivalence, compare and simplify fractions
- Use and generate models to represent relationships with whole numbers, fractions, and mixed numbers
- Add and subtract fractions with like denominators
- Rename mixed numbers as fractions greater than one and vice versa
- Relate fractions, decimals, and money with tenths and hundredths
- Classify geometric figures based on properties
- Identify and draw points, lines, line segments, rays, and angles
- Relate degrees and angles to fractional parts of a circle, use protractors to measure and draw angles (acute, obtuse, right, straight)

Practice these skills at home ~

- *Explore your surroundings, discuss what you notice*
- *Ask questions about how things work and investigate them*

Practice these skills at home ~

- *Play math games*
- *Practice addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division math facts*
- *Encourage your child to solve challenging problems in everyday situations at home*
- *Practice estimation when using money at a store*
- *Practice telling time to the nearest minute and solve elapsed time problems*
- *Practice capacity concepts through measuring with recipes*
- *Use a ruler and/or tape measure to practice measuring (i.e. find the dimensions of a room or your yard to determine the area and/or perimeter)*

$$1/4 + 3/4$$

Recommended Resources:

- [Yardsticks](#), by Chip Wood
- www.responsiveclassroom.org
- www.childdevelopmentinfo.com

Please visit your child's teacher website for additional resources and information at www.ctsdnj.org