

RHYTHMS & RESPONSES

**Authentic Faith**

This year you will provoke discovery so your child will trust God’s character and experience God’s family. Fourth graders are often introspective and enjoy having some alone time. Leverage this new tendency to help them develop a habit of spending time alone with God.

Help them pick out a preteen devotional and continue having faith conversations at home. You can do these things by taking advantage of the time you already spend together.

**Say things like...**

Did you know that the Bible was written as 66 different books, but they all tell one story?

Connect the dots between the stories to give a bigger context.

What do you think is the wisest choice in this situation?

How can I pray for you today/this week?

**Parent Cue Times**



**Morning Time**

Be a coach. Instill purpose by starting the day with encouraging words.



**Drive Time**

Be a friend. Interpret life during informal conversations as you travel.



**Meal Time**

Be a teacher. Establish values with intentional conversations while you eat together.



**Bed Time**

Be a counselor. Strengthen your relationship through heart conversations at the end of the day.

PHASE SUMMARY

# Fourth Grade



The phase when friends are best friends, games are for competition, and your confident kid will insist, **“I’ve got this.”**

### Friends matter more.

Fourth grade friend-groups may be quickly turning into cliques, and friendships may evolve into “best friends.” Look for ways to fuel healthy friendships. They are the perfect place to learn some of life’s most valuable skills.

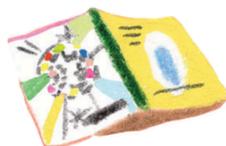
### Competition can be fun.

With a “lifetime” of practice under their belt, your fourth grader is ready to prove they can win. Almost nothing motivates a fourth grader more than a good competition. It’s one way to show you how smart and fast and strong they really are. But since the outcome typically matters more than the game (to them), you might be on the lookout for a few negotiations and rule changes along the way.

### Natural confidence rules.

It’s the fifth year of school, and your kid has this routine down. So on the days when your kid may be feeling anxious or worried, ask what you can do to help. Encourage persistence over performance, and constantly remind them, “You’ve got this.” They are gaining the confidence they will need for the phases to come.

**It’s just a phase,  
so don’t miss it.**



## OVERVIEW

# In the Fourth Grade phase, your role is to engage their interests.

Your fourth grader can understand different points of view, empathize with others, and negotiate like a champ. That means one thing: Your influence is shifting. Your kid still needs you, but they are beginning to need you in a different way. If you want to engage their interests, then include peers, coach relational skills, and help your kid develop healthy friendships.



**Elementary schoolers think like a scientist.**

You help them learn when you...  
give them a challenge.



**Elementary schoolers want to know, “Do I have friends?”**

You capture their heart when you...  
develop friendships.



**Elementary schoolers are motivated by fun.**

You coach them when you...  
invite others to join in.