

## RHYTHMS & RESPONSES

### Authentic Faith

This year you will **provoke discovery** so your child will trust God's character and experience God's family. Your first grader may be starting to read and enjoy books. **So, this is a great year to purchase a kid's Bible.**

Look for one that is the full text, in an easy-to-read translation like the NIV. You will need to read it to them for now. Continue having other faith conversations as you go about your days together.

### Say things like...

"A friend loves at all times. He is there to help when trouble comes." Proverbs 17:17

Repeat simple Bible verses

You need to make the wise choice.

Let's take a new book to your friend who stayed home sick today.

Involve them in serving friends and neighbors.

### 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

# First Grade



The phase when unfiltered words make you laugh, school drop-off makes you cry, and life becomes a stage where your kid shouts, **"Look at me!"**

### Get ready for memorable statements.

Your child is now a sophisticated conversationalist— at least in their mind. With one year of school under their belt, they are quickly becoming more confident in their opinions and observations. You may be amazed and entertained by all the profound and uncensored things they say, like, “I stink on the stairs when I eat brown beans.”

### Adjust for a cultural shift: school.

It’s only the second year, and your kid is still adjusting to less playtime, more early-morning alarm clocks, and an even higher demand for focused attention. It’s still important to give after-school opportunities for a little unstructured play, a chance to skip and run, to throw and catch, and to use their imagination.

### Give some undivided attention.

The average first grade class has twenty kids—some even as cute and smart as your own. But first graders are hungry for individualized adult attention and approval. So when it’s the end of the day and your first grader keeps asking, “Look at me,” give them your attention as freely and as often as possible.

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



## OVERVIEW

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

Your first grader’s schedule may be picking up pace—from bus rides to recreational sports to after-school programs. But with all the increasing opportunities to try new things, don’t miss what your first grader needs most. The way you answer their questions, listen to their stories, and show up consistently will help them improve their abilities.



### Elementary schoolers think like a scientist.

You help them learn when you...  
give them concrete

examples.



### Elementary schoolers want to know, “Do I have your attention?”

You capture their heart when you...

improve their abilities.



### Elementary schoolers are motivated by fun.

You coach them when you...  
play on their level.