



3rd Grade Developmental Guide

This is the year that children begin to see clear differences between themselves and others, which can lead children to suppress their individuality. We need to help children see that they are uniquely made. This is the year that children's interests in multiple areas can peak, leading to increased chaos in scheduling.

Here are some of the developmental changes they are experiencing right now.

Physical

- Are growing permanent teeth
- Have interest in team sports
- Are recognizing the large differences in size and ability among them and their peers
- Are increasing in coordination as well as motor and non-locomotor movement
- Are increasing in attention span

Emotional

- Define themselves based on attributes or achievements
- Will test limits
- Have a strong desire to do things well
- Struggle to handle failure and criticism
- Can become stressed because of schoolwork
- Can bite off more than they can chew by overshooting abilities

Relational

- Place high importance on friendships and have very close friends
- Begin to display a sense of humor

- Become less dependent on parents and more dependent on peers
- Begin to care for and play with younger children
- Recognize when someone is being left out and take initiative to include them

Spiritual

- Move out of the egocentric stage to begin considering others
- Begin to distinguish what is important
- Can ask big spiritual questions and tend to have big ideas on their own
- Can rank themselves and others based on material possessions