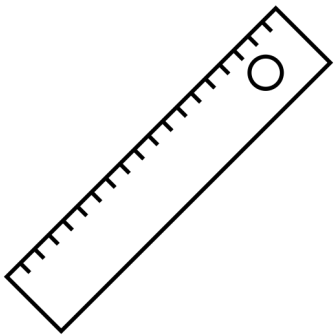


4 Year Olds

Language

- Very talkative; enjoy experimenting with language, delighting in big words, long explanations, bathroom language, and swear words
- Love being read to



Social Emotional

- Friendly, talkative, "bubbly"
- Love being with friends, though they still often work near, not with, a friend
- Not overly dependent on adults and can make decisions based on their own interests, but need an adult's advice
- Need adult help finding words to express needs, instead of reacting physically
- Love "jobs" such as taking attendance or putting out snack at school and setting the table or folding clothes at home
- Older fours are sometimes fearful or worried and may have nightmares

Cognitive

- Have short attention spans; move quickly from one thing to the next
- Learn best by moving large muscles
- Need to play and explore; love dress-up and drama
- Enjoy activities that use music, rhythm, repeating patterns, and other simple learning strategies
- Love to be read to and love to read their picture books
- Constantly reading their environment

5 Year Olds

Cognitive

- Like to copy and repeat activities
- Often see only one way to do things
- Bound cognitively by their senses; not ready to understand abstract concepts such as "fairness"
- Ascribe life and movement to inanimate objects such as stuffed animals
- Learn best through active play and hands on activities

Social Emotional

- Can work at quiet, sitting activities for 15-20 minutes at a time
- Often needs their teacher's release to move to the next task, though they can pace themselves while doing a given task
- Feel safe with consistent guidelines and carefully planned periods
- Express thoughts through action; need opportunities to play in housekeeping or other dramatic play corners
- Learn and practice language skills through teacher modeling and directed role play, as well as dramatic play

Older 5 year Olds

- **Oppositional; not sure whether to be good or bad**
- **Insecure with feelings and tentative in actions**
- **Complain, test authority and limits, and strike out with temper tantrums**
- **Behave wonderful at home and terribly at school or vice versa**
- **Equivocate, switching answers from "yes" to "no" and vice versa**

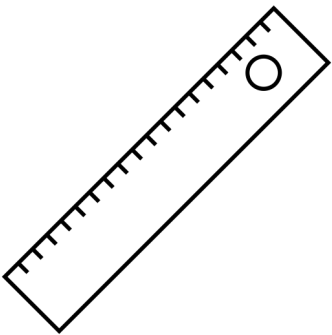
- Literal, using and interpreting words in their usual or most basic sense
- Express themselves in a few words "play" and "good" are favorites
- Often do not talk about school happenings at home
- Express fantasy more through actions and less through words
- Think out loud

Language

6 Year Olds

Language

- Enjoy explaining things; sharing about things they like helps develop their language skills
- Use boisterous and enthusiastic language
- Love jokes and guessing games
- Tend to complain frequently



Social Emotional

- Wants to be first
- Competitive; enthusiastic
- Sometimes “poor sports” or dishonest; invent rules to enable themselves to win
- Anxious to do well
- Thrive on encouragement
- Tremendous capacity for enjoyment; like surprises and treats
- Can be bossy, teasing, or critical of others
- Easily upset when hurt
- Care a great deal about friends; may have a best friend
- Less influenced by happenings at home than at school

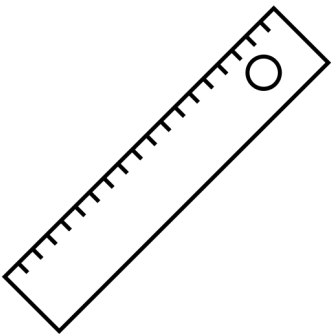
Cognitive

- Learn best through discovery; love asking questions and trying out new games and ideas
- Better understand spatial and functional relationships
- Very ambitious and motivated to learn; may choose projects that are too hard
- Enjoy the process more than the product
- Love to color and paint
- Engage in more elaborate cooperative and dramatic play
- Increasingly interested in computers
- Beginning to understand past and present and also how and why things happen
- Beginning to be interested in skill and technique
- Like to “work”; enjoy reading and writing

7 Year Olds

Language

- Listen well and speak precisely
- Enjoy one-to-one conversations and like to send notes
- Rapidly develop their vocabularies
- Show great interest in meanings of words and enjoy all sorts of codes



Social Emotional

- Inward-looking; sometimes moody, touchy, depressed, sulky, or shy
- May change friendships quickly and feel “nobody likes me”
- Need security and structure; rely on adults for help and constant reassurance
- Don't like taking risks or making mistakes
- Sensitive to others' feelings, but sometimes tattletale
- Conscientious and serious; have strong likes and dislikes
- Keep belongings neater at home and school than at six

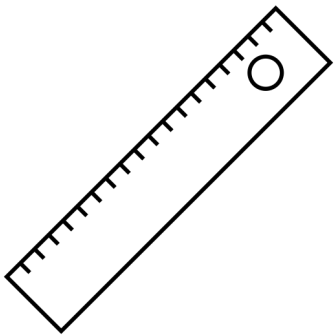
Cognitive

- Enjoy repeating tasks and reviewing learning
- Like to work by themselves slowly and finish what they start
- Bothered by mistakes and try hard to make their work perfect
- Good at classifying - sorting buttons, pictures, leaves, shapes, etc
- Like to be read to
- Enjoy board games as well as computer games
- Enjoy Hands-on exploration - taking things apart and discovering how they work
- Increasingly able to reflect on their learning

8 Year Olds

Language

- Like to talk, explain ideas, and use rapidly expanding vocabularies
- Tend to exaggerate
- Listen well, but they have so many ideas that they may not always remember what they've heard



Social Emotional

- Enjoy socializing and sharing humor
- Love group activities and cooperative work, preferably with peers of the same gender
- Adjust well to change; bounce back quickly from mistakes or disappointments
- Form larger friendship groups than at seven
- Respond well to class projects and traditions that build a sense of unity and cohesion
- Become interested in fairness issues and may argue about them

Cognitive

- Have limited attention spans but do become engrossed in the activity at hand; love to socialize at the same time
- Industrious, impatient, and full of ideas; work quickly and often take on more than they can handle
- Enjoy responsibility, although they do not always successfully complete tasks
- Care about both the process and the product of schoolwork; want their peers' approval as much as their teachers/

9

Year Olds

Cognitive

- Industrious and intellectually curious, but less imaginative than at eight
- Looking hard (often anxiously) for explanations of acts, how things work, why things happen as they do
- Take pride in attention to detail and finished work, but may jump quickly between interests

Social Emotional

- More individualistic
- Often feel worried or anxious
- Impatient
- Often complain about fairness issues
- Critical of self and others (including adults)
- Can be sullen, moody, aloof, and negative; often say "I hate it," "It's boring," etc.
- Wants choice in a partner
- Can work in groups but might spend more time arguing about facts, rules, and directions than doing the actual activity
- Very competitive; need their teacher's sense of lightness and fun to help them relax
- Likes to negotiate- this is the age of "Let's make a deal"
- Tends to give up on tasks; encouragement to try again builds up their fragile sense of competence

- Loves descriptive language, word play, and new vocabulary
- Sometimes revert to baby talk
- Enjoy exaggerations, "dirty" jokes, and graffiti

Language

10 Year Olds

Cognitive

- Very good at memorizing facts
- Increasingly able to think abstractly; enjoy rules and logic; good at solving problems
- Enjoy collecting, classifying and organizing
- Can concentrate for long periods
- Take pride in school work
- Highly productive with schoolwork
- Enjoy working on science and math

Social Emotional

- Cooperative nature is conducive to group activity; ten is a good age for learning peer mediation and conflict resolution
- Quite concerned with friendship and fairness issues; teams, groups, games and competitions help them practice social interaction
- Generally satisfied with their own abilities; happy and flexible
- Eager to reach out to others, such as through community service or tutoring younger children
- Enjoy being noticed and rewarded for their efforts; respond well to teacher "noticing" language
- Quick tempers may lead to physical outbursts and tears, but problems are usually quickly and easily solved

- Listen well
- Read voraciously
- Expressive and talkative; like to explain things

Language

11

Year Olds

Cognitive

- Would rather learn new skills than review or improve previous work
- Becoming more adept at abstract thinking, for example, they can understand ideas such as "justice"
- With improving reasoning skills they can establish and modify rules and develop hypotheses
- Increasingly able to see the world from various perspectives

Social Emotional

- Moody, self-absorbed
- Like to challenge rules, argue, and test limits; may be cruel; sometimes physically aggressive
- Worry more about who's "in" and who's "out" than when they were younger
- Need lots of time to talk with peers; heavy users of the phone, email etc.
- Impulsive - often talk before thinking
- Often behave best when away from home
- Have trouble making decisions
- Need adult empathy, humor, and sensitivity to help them cope with their rapidly changing minds and bodies

- Enjoy arguing and debating
- Appreciate humor
- Imitate adult language

Language