

KINDERGARTEN & FIRST



THE PHASE
WHEN



UNFILTERED WORDS
MAKE YOU LAUGH,

AND LIFE BECOMES
A STAGE



HOMEWORK MAKES YOU CRY,

WHERE YOUR KID SHOUTS,

"LOOK AT ME."



YOUR KID IS CHANGING...

PHYSICALLY

- Can brush teeth, wash and dry hands, and use toilet paper independently... pretty well
- Loses incisor teeth (6-8 years)
- Draws a person with a body
- Writes his or her name
- Learning to tie shoes
- Needs 10-12 hours of sleep a night

MENTALLY

- Can focus on one activity for 5-15 minutes
- Beginning to understand ironic humor and tell simple jokes
- Recognizes and names, numbers, and shapes, and colors
- Knows the difference between vs. want and real vs pretend
- Doesn't logically interpret cause and effect.

RELATIONALLY

- Wants to please and help others
- May wander from activity to activity or playgroup to playgroup
- Has a hard time asking for help
- Needs guidance taking turns and losing well
- Shows very little gender preference for playmates

EMOTIONALLY

- May display extreme emotions
- Expresses feelings better through play and art (rather than words)
- Tends to be optimistic
- Needs to experience moderate challenges and successes
- Highly sensitive to harsh criticism, tone, and body language

YOUR ROLE IS TO
ENGAGE
THEIR INTERESTS

School is a crisis. Your now-elementary-school kid is adjusting to big changes, whether it's bus rides or lunch lines or new routines. But the stress of change can also be a platform for discovery and growth. The way you answer their questions, listen to their stories, and show up consistently will help them improve their abilities.

THINKS LIKE A SCIENTIST

You help them learn when you...
GIVE CONCRETE EXAMPLES.

WANTS TO KNOW,
"DO I HAVE YOUR ATTENTION?"

You capture their heart when you...
IMPROVE THEIR ABILITIES.

IS MOTIVATED BY FUN

You coach their moral abilities when you...
PLAY ON THEIR LEVEL.



**IT'S JUST
A PHASE**

**SO DON'T
MISS IT**

GET READY FOR MEMORABLE STATEMENTS.

By this age, a child can talk in sentences... and long, wandering monologues. Sometimes it may seem as if they only goal for conversation is to Just. Keep. Talking. But, you will be amazed and entertained by all the profound and uncensored things they say, like, How did you get the wrinkles our of your hair? And You re talking so much I can t hear you.

ADJUST FOR A CULTURAL SHIFT - SCHOOL.

This means less time for play, more early-morning alarms clocks, and higher demand for focused attention. While kids at this age thrive on routine and predictability, they also crave opportunities to have a little unstructured play, a chance to skip and run, and throw and catch, and to use their imagination.

GIVE SOME UNDIVIDED ATTENTION.

Where previously a kid might have been one adorable toddler drawing the attention of multiple adults, they are now in a classroom with multiple kids--some even as cute and as smart as they are. At school, at church, or on the soccer field, one thing is true: they want your undivided attention. They want your focus, so give it as freely and as often as possible.

YOU CAN HELP YOUR KID GROW IN WISDOM, FAITH, AND FRIENDSHIP.

When you ENGAGE your child s interests, you help them...

**TRUST GOD'S CHARACTER
EXPERIENCE GOD'S FAMILY**

Practically speaking, that means every week you have an opportunity to...

CONNECT WITH A FAITH COMMUNITY.

PRAY TOGETHER

READ BIBLE STORIES AND ANSWER FAITH QUESTIONS

REPEAT BASIC TRUTHS LIKE :

"I can trust God no matter what."

"I need to make the wise choice."

"I should treat others the way I want to be treated."

You can do these things by taking advantage of the time you already spend together.

MORNING TIME	DRIVE TIME	MEAL TIME	BED TIME
BE A COACH. You instill purpose when you start the day with encouraging words	BE A FRIEND You interpret life during informal conversation as you travel.	BE A TEACHER You establish values with intentional conversation while you eat together.	BE A COUNSELOR. You strengthen your relationship through heart conversations at the end of the day.

IT'S JUST A
PHASE
SO DON'T MISS IT

PHASE

A TIMEFRAME

— IN A — **KID'S LIFE** — WHEN YOU CAN

LEVERAGE

DISTINCTIVE OPPORTUNITIES TO INFLUENCE

THEIR FUTURE.

YOU HAVE 676 WEEKS AND COUNTING.