

**GRADE FOUR  
LEARNER EXPECTATIONS**

**LANGUAGE ARTS**

**Parents Guide to  
Fourth Grade**

**Some Developmental  
Characteristics Shown by Many  
Nine-Year-Olds**

- ☉ Whatever nine-year-olds enjoy, they will do endlessly – even to the point of fatigue!
- ☉ Typically more independent and self motivated than just a year ago.
- ☉ Sleep approximately nine hours daily.
- ☉ While behavioral differences can be seen at any age, they are more noticeable at age nine. Mood swings may vary widely – from timid to bold, from cheerful to grumpy.
- ☉ Like to plan and know where they are going before setting out on a task. After starting a task, they like to see it through.
- ☉ Tend to organize and budget time, frequently using self-developed lists and schedules.
- ☉ Apply academic skills to everyday life, such as using math skills to plan a purchase of a wanted item or reading books for entertainment and information.
- ☉ Enjoy making inventories and checklists and love to collect things.
- ☉ Want to please adults but regard their peer group as most important. Some children are devoted to their friends, while others are more interested in the activities they do with their families.

Source:  
*Families, Schools, Communities  
Learning Together - Special Edition:  
Guide to Developing Grade-Level  
Brochures for Parents.*  
Wisconsin Department of Public  
Instruction, Fall 1999



**Reading: Foundational Skills**

- Reads and understands grade level text with accuracy and fluency (rate, automaticity, expression, phrasing, and purpose).

**Reading: Literature**

- Summarizes literary texts using details and examples, both orally and in writing.
- Demonstrates understanding of literary elements, structure of text, comparing and contrasting points of view, themes, and topics across texts.

**Reading: Informational**

- Summarizes informational texts using details and examples, both orally and in writing.
- Compares and contrasts accounts of the same event or topic, interprets text features, and explains how an author uses reasons and evidence to support points in a text.

**Writing**

- Writes clear and organized opinion, informative/explanatory, and narrative pieces supported by facts and details.
- Develops and strengthens writing by planning, revising, and editing.
- Conducts short research projects while taking notes, categorizing information, and listing sources.
- Applies fluent and legible cursive writing skills to written work.
- Uses technology to interact and collaborate with others and uses keyboarding to compose a minimum of one page.

**Language**

- Demonstrates conventions of grammar in writing.
- Demonstrates the command of capitalization and punctuation when writing.
- Demonstrates command of spelling when writing.

**Speaking and Listening**

- Takes part in conversations about grade level topics and texts.

**MATH**

**Operations and Algebraic Thinking**

- Interprets and represents comparison multiplication equations.
- Multiplies or divides to solve comparison problems using drawings and equations.
- Represents and solves multi-step word problems using equations and variables.
- Finds factor pairs and multiples to 100 and identifies prime, composite numbers, and number patterns.

**Number and Operations in Base Ten**

- Reads, writes and compares multi-digit whole numbers.
- Uses place value to round multi-digit whole numbers.
- Adds and subtracts multi-digit whole numbers.
- Uses strategies to multiply and explains solutions using equations, arrays, and area models.
- Uses strategies to divide multi-digit numbers by 1-digit divisors and explains solutions using equations, arrays, and area models.

**Number and Operations - Fractions**

- Recognizes and generates equivalent fractions using visual models.
- Compares fractions with different numerators and denominators.
- Adds and subtracts fractions with like denominators and mixed numbers.
- Solves word problems involving addition and subtraction of fractions.
- Multiplies a fraction by a whole number.
- Finds equivalent fractions with denominators of 10 and 100 and writes them as decimals.

- Compares decimals and uses models to justify conclusions.

### **Measurement and Data**

- Solves problems involving measurement and conversions.
- Represents and interprets fraction measurement data using a line plot.
- Understands concepts of angles and angle measurement.

### **Geometry**

- Draws and identifies lines and angles and classifies shapes by their properties.

### **Mathematical Practices**

- Understands the problem situation: makes sense of problems; reasons abstractly and quantitatively.
- Represents the problem situation: models with mathematics; looks for and makes use of structure.
- Solves the problem: uses appropriate tools; uses repeated reasoning.
- Checks that the answer makes sense: critiques the reasoning of others; attends to precision.

## **SOCIAL STUDIES**

### **Geography: People, Places and Environment**

- Describes and locates features on maps and globes.
- Describes and gives examples of ways people interact with the environment.
- Identifies connections between Wisconsin and the world.

### **History: Time/Continuity and Change**

- Identifies and describes important events and famous people.
- Compares/contrasts changes in contemporary life with life in the past.

### **Government and Citizenship**

- Identifies the historical background and meaning of important political values such as freedom, democracy, and justice.
- Explains the basic purpose of government in American society, recognizing the three levels of government and the responsibility of each citizen.

### **Economics**

- Identifies the importance of economics in everyday life.
- Identifies State and US goods and services (imports/exports) as part of the global economy.

## **SCIENCE/HEALTH**

### **Science Inquiry**

- Asks scientific questions.
- Plans and conducts investigations.
- Uses tools to gather data.
- Uses data to construct reasonable explanation.
- Communicates investigations and explanations.

### **Physical Science**

- Understands the physics of sound.

### **Earth Science**

- Understands composition and properties of rocks and minerals.
- Understands that earth materials provide any resources.

### **Life Science**

- Understands that plants and animals have differences in growth, survival needs, and reproduction.

### **Health**

- Understands concepts and practices behaviors to promote health and prevent diseases.

## **PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

- Applies basic offensive and defensive strategies in invasion games.
- Performs movement combinations using rhythm, balance, and/or weight transfer.
- Applies basic offensive and defensive strategies in net/wall games.
- Identifies the health benefits of being physically active.
- Demonstrates safe, responsible, and respectful behaviors during active participation.

## **VISUAL ARTS**

- Demonstrates ability to describe and interpret works of art.
- Uses basic art skills and techniques to produce quality works of art.
- Uses problem solving skills to make works of art that express original ideas.
- Identifies meanings of works of art from different times, places and cultures.

## **MUSIC**

- Sings a song.
- Performs a song on a melodic instrument.
- Reads known pitches.
- Reads known rhythms.
- Writes known pitches.
- Writes known rhythms.
- Makes safe, respectful and responsible choices.

## **BEHAVIORS OF LIFELONG LEARNERS**

### **Collaborative Worker**

- ◆ Cooperates with others.
- ◆ Demonstrates respect and compassion for others.

### **Community Contributor**

- ◆ Takes responsibility for self and materials.
- ◆ Accepts responsibility for actions.
- ◆ Demonstrates self-control.
- ◆ Participates appropriately in group discussion.

### **Quality Producer**

- ◆ Initiates and completes tasks on time.
- ◆ Strives for accuracy, quality and neatness.

### **Complex Thinker**

- ◆ Thinks, questions, and solves problems in a variety of ways.
- ◆ Demonstrates curiosity in learning.
- ◆ Demonstrates a willingness to try new experiences.