

Kindergarten-5th Grade Milestones

By the end of kindergarten, you can expect your child to:

- Follow class rules
- Separate from a parent or caregiver with ease
- Take turns
- Cut along a line with scissors
- Establish left- or right-hand dominance
- Understand time concepts like yesterday, today, and tomorrow
- Stand quietly in a line
- Follow directions agreeably and easily
- Pay attention for 15 to 20 minutes
- Hold a crayon and pencil correctly
- Share materials such as crayons and blocks
- Know the eight basic colors: red, yellow, blue, green, orange, black, white, and pink
- Recognize and write the letters of the alphabet in upper- and lowercase forms
- Know the relationship between letters and the sounds they make
- Recognize sight words such as *the* and read simple sentences
- Spell his first and last name
- Write consonant-vowel-consonant words such as *bat* and *fan*
- Retell a story that has been read aloud
- Identify numbers up to 20
- Count by ones, fives, and tens to 100
- Know basic shapes such as a square, triangle, rectangle, and circle
- Know her address and phone number

By the end of first grade, you can expect your child to:

- Work independently at her desk
- Listen to longer sets of directions
- Read directions off the board, although some children may still have difficulty with this
- Complete homework and bring it back the next day
- Sit in a chair for a longer period of time
- Be able to see things from another person's point of view so you can reason with your child and teach her empathy
- Relate experiences in greater detail and in a logical way
- Problem-solve disagreements
- Crave affection from parents and teachers
- Have some minor difficulties with friendships and working out problems with peers
- Distinguish left from right
- Be able to plan ahead
- Write words with letter-combination patterns such as words with a silent *e*
- Read and write high-frequency words such as *where* and *every*
- Write complete sentences with correct capitalization and punctuation
- Read aloud first-grade books with accuracy and understanding

- Count change
- Tell time to the hour and half-hour
- Quickly answer addition and subtraction facts for sums up to 20
- Complete two-digit addition and subtraction problems without regrouping

By the end of second grade, you can expect your child to:

- Begin to reason and concentrate
- Improve his ability to process information
- Work cooperatively with a partner or small group
- Understand the difference between right and wrong
- Make connections between concepts so he will be better able to compare and contrast ideas
- Expand his vocabulary
- Read fluently with expression
- Recognize most irregularly spelled words such as *because* and *upon*
- Begin to use a dictionary
- Add single- and multi-digit numbers with regrouping
- Tell time to the quarter-hour
- Know the concept of multiplication (for example, 2×3 is two rows of three)

By the end of third grade, you can expect your child to:

- Work cooperatively and productively with other children in small groups to complete projects
- Understand how choices affect consequences
- Become more organized and logical in her thinking processes
- Build stronger friendships
- Be helpful, cheerful, and pleasant as well as rude, bossy, selfish, and impatient
- Be more influenced by peer pressure because friends are very important at this stage
- Like immediate rewards for behavior
- Be able to copy from a chalkboard
- Be able to write neatly in cursive because the small muscles of the hand have developed
- Read longer stories and chapter books with expression and comprehension
- Use prefixes, suffixes, and root words and other strategies to identify unfamiliar words
- Multiply single- and multi-digit numbers
- Divide multi-digit numbers by one-digit numbers
- Tell time to the half-hour and quarter-hour and to five minutes and one minute

By the end of fourth grade, you can expect your child to:

- Begin to make more decisions and engage in group decision-making
- Want to be part of a group
- Think independently and critically
- Have empathy
- Show a strong sense of responsibility

- Be able to memorize and recite facts, although he may not have a deep understanding of them
- Increase the amount of detail in drawings
- Work on research projects
- Write a structured paragraph with an introductory topic sentence, three supporting details, and a closing sentence that wraps up the main idea of the paragraph
- Use a range of strategies when drawing meaning from text, such as prediction, connections, and inference
- Understand cause-and-effect relationships
- Add and subtract decimals, and compare decimals and fractions
- Multiply multi-digit numbers by two-digit numbers
- Divide larger multi-digit numbers by one-digit numbers
- Find the area of two-dimensional shapes
- Have a greater awareness of fairness

By the end of fifth grade, you can expect your child to:

- Be generally truthful and dependable
- Develop increasing independence
- Improve problem-solving skills
- Acquire more-advanced listening and responding skills
- Enjoy organizing and classifying objects and ideas
- Be able to read and concentrate for long periods of time
- Read complex text fluently and with good comprehension
- Research a topic using a variety of sources, and use the features of a book (for example, the index, glossary, and appendix) to find information
- Identify conflict, climax, and resolution in a story
- Write an organized, multi-paragraph composition in sequential order with a central idea
- Use problem-solving strategies to solve real-world math problems
- Add and subtract fractions and decimals
- Identify and describe three-dimensional shapes, and find their volumes and surface areas
- Use long division to divide large numbers by multi-digit numbers