

Compass Bible Church  
Compass KIDS

**Characteristics of Children**  
3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Graders

***Because 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> graders are like this:***

***Physically***

Greater stamina, tires less easily. Highly active. Enjoys physical games and plays rough. Small and large motor skills are more developed, refined and improving in speed. Steady physical development with girls ahead of boys.

***Mentally***

Has a higher level of creativity but may be self-conscious. Increasing independence. Expresses curiosity. Attention span is 10-15 minutes. Likes fiction, adventure and fantasy. Has difficulty understanding symbolism. Learning to reason things out usually with a trial and error approach.

***Socially***

Participates in peer group. Approval by peer group is very important. Still desires adult approval. Can work together in a group. Enjoys competition. Looks up to “models” or “heroes”. May not like members of the opposite gender.

***Emotionally***

Can empathize with others. Enjoys challenges. Sensitive to criticism, nicknames and teases. Emotions vary widely from shyness to exuberance. Feelings easily hurt. Vents anger verbally and physically.

***Spiritually***

Can recognize need for forgiveness of their sin and a relationship with Jesus Christ. Developing consciousness for right and wrong and able to make deliberate choices. Has an interest in God, Jesus and the Bible.

***Teach them like this:***

Without getting out of control, provide a more active classroom. Games and activities can be more physically involved and can go for greater length of time. Because the child may overestimate their abilities, keep games and activities safe in nature. Plan hands on activities.

***Teach them like this:***

Provide opportunities for dramas. Have students act out the story especially those with adventure. Plan a variety of activities. Give beginning opportunities to investigate situations and reach a conclusion. Avoid abstract concepts. Continue to distinguish between fact and fantasy.

***Teach them like this:***

Plan activities where they can participate in a group giving their input to the group. Affirm the child. Make sure competitions are equal and fair. Give examples from your own life. Be a worthy model to your students and direct them in whom they look at as “heroes”.

***Teach them like this:***

Provide opportunities to help others. Do not allow students to criticize or tease other kids. Affirm the child and affirm positive behavior. Help child discover healthy ways to deal with anger.

***Teach them like this:***

Talk with your students about forgiveness for sin and a relationship with Jesus, allowing them opportunity to ask questions. Provide opportunities for prayer and resources for Bible Study.