

Compass Bible Church
Compass KIDS

Characteristics of Children
5th & 6th Graders

Because 5th & 6th graders are like this:

Physically

Slow, steady growth but may experience growth spurt at 11 ½ to 12 years old. Girls are growing faster than boys. Some are entering puberty. Good motor coordination Strong and healthy. Noisy, likes lots of activity especially out of doors. Enjoys competition.

Mentally

Transitions from concrete to abstract thinking. Can think and reason but has difficulty with symbolism. Attention span is 15-20 minutes. Likes talking, memorizing, collecting things, decision making, reading and writing. Has good vocabulary.

Socially

Can accept responsibility. Peer relationships are very important. Pulling away from parents and adults in desire for independence. Loyalty to peers increasing while loyalty to adults is decreasing. Wants to belong to a club or group. Prefers same gender group. Hero worshiper.

Emotionally

Sixth graders may experience more moodiness as they enter puberty. Typically, are happy, easygoing, friendly, and well-balanced emotionally. Dislikes outward displays of affection. May be quick tempered. Can be very cruel to others at times but also developing social consciousness for others.

Spiritually

Understands concepts of sin. Asks many questions about spirituality. Faith becomes more personal. Can develop spiritual disciplines of Bible study, worship and prayer. Capable of sharing Christ with others. May set high stands for themselves.

Teach them like this:

Use creative techniques that challenge the 5th and 6th grader. Avoid childish techniques. Use active learning whenever possible. Provide times where students can be noisy perhaps during music time. Capture the students' attention from the beginning.

Teach them like this:

Provide opportunities for discussion and questioning that requires the students to think. Use thought provoking techniques. Challenge them to memorize, collect thoughts and write. Provide classroom projects. Provide choices.

Teach them like this:

Give students specific activities to help them take ownership of the class. Build on group identity with class leader, class projects, class names, activities, etc. Never play the heavy authority figure but guide your students with lots of love and concern for them. Never force opposite gender groups. Provide lots of positive role models of adults and teens.

Teach them like this:

Use humor when appropriate in your lesson. Emphasize we never use humor at the expense of another person. Avoid displays of affection. Build value and esteem by listening attentively, focusing on the student, remembering their birthdays, etc. Avoid flare-ups by having a well-organized lesson plan.

Teach them like this:

Answer questions openly and honest. Use scriptures to help answer their questions developing the understanding of biblical authority. Provide opportunities and equip students to grow in their understanding about and love for God through instruction in Bible study, worship and prayer. Provide opportunities to learn how to share what they know about God, Jesus, Church and the Bible. Provide service projects to help others in need.