

STAGES OF DEVELOPMENT

Every child is a unique person with an individual temperament, learning style, family background, pattern and timing of growth. It is important to keep in mind that the time frames presented are averages and some children may achieve various developmental milestones earlier or later than the average but still be within the normal range.

Birth to 3 Months

Children Of This Age May:

- Beg in To Smile
- Track People And Objects With Eyes
- Prefer faces and bright colors
- Reach, Discover Hands And Feet
- Life Head And Turn Toward Sound
- Cry, But Often Soothed When Held

4 to 6 Months

Children Of This Age May:

- Smile Often
- Prefer Parents And Older Siblings
- Repeat Actions With Interesting Results
- Listen Intently, Respond When Spoken To
- Laugh, Gurgle, Imitate Sounds
- Explore Hands And Feet
- Put Objects In Mouth
- Sit When Propped, Roll Over, Scoot, Bounce
- Grasp Objects Without Using Thumb

7 To 12 Months

Children Of This Age May:

- Remember Simple Events
- Identify Themselves, Body Parts, Familiar Voices
- Understand Own Name, Other Common Words

- Say First Meaningful Words
- Explore, Bang, Shake Objects
- Find Hidden Objects, Put Objects In Containers
- Sit Alone
- Creep, Pull Themselves Up To Stand, Walk
- May Seem Shy or Upset With Strangers

1 To 2 Years

Children Of This Age May:

- Imitate Adult Actions
- Speak And Understand Words And Ideas
- Enjoy Stories And Experimenting With Objects
- Walk Steadily, Climb Stairs, Run
- Assert Independence, But Prefer Familiar People
- Recognize Ownership Of Objects
- Develop Friendships
- Solve Problems
- Show Pride In Accomplishments
- Like To Help With Tasks
- Begin Pretend Play

2 To 3 ½ Years

Children Of This Age May:

- Enjoy Learning New Skills
- Learn Language Rapidly
- Always On The Go
- Gain Control Of Hands And Fingers
- Are Easily Frustrated

- Act More Independent, But Still Dependent
- Act Out Familiar Scenes

3 ½ To 5 Years

Children Of This Age May:

- Have A Longer Attention Span
- Act Silly, Boisterous, May Use Shocking Language
- Talk A Lot, Ask Many Questions
- Want Real Adult Things, Keep Art Projects
- Test Physical Skills And Courage With Caution
- Reveal Feeling In Dramatic Play
- Like To Play With Friends, Do Not Like To Lose
- Share And Take Turns Sometimes

5 To 8 Years

Children Of This Age May:

- Grow Curious About People And How The World Works
- Show An Increasing Interest In Numbers, Letters, Reading And Writing
- Gain More Confidence In Physical Skills
- Use Words To Express Feeling And To Cope
- Like Grown-Up Activities
- Become More Outgoing, Play Cooperatively

9 To 11 Years

Children Of This Age May:

Children of this age develop a sense of self and find it important to gain social acceptance and experience achievement. Friends become increasingly important. Secret codes, shared work meanings and made up languages, passwords and elaborate rituals are important ways to strengthen the bonds of friendship. Close friends are almost always of the same sex, although children in this age group are usually increasingly interested in peers of the opposite sex.

Be prepared to use all your “patience” skills if caring for children this age, as they tend to think that they do not need any adult care or supervision. Yet, when they are left to care for themselves, they are lonely, unhappy, and sometimes frightened.

Children Of This Age May:

- Develop Special Interest In Collections Or Hobbies
- Be Very Interested In Discussing A Future Career
- Fantasize and Daydream About the Future
- Be Capable Of Understanding Concepts Without Having Direct Hands-On Experience
- Begin To See Parents And Authority Figures As Fallible Human Beings

- Use Of Rituals, Rules, Secret Codes, And Made-Up Language Are Common
- Enjoy Being A Member Of A Club
- Have Increased Interest In Competitive Sports
- Display Anger Outbursts Less Frequently
- Belittle Or Defy Authority

12 To 14 Years

Children Of This Age May:

- Struggle With Sense Of Identity
- Moodiness
- Improved Abilities To Use Speech To Express Oneself
- More Likely To Express Feelings By Action Than By Words
- Close Friendships Gain Importance
- Less Affection Shown To Parents, With Occasional Rudeness
- Realization That Parents Are Not Perfect
- Identification Of Their Faults
- Search For New People To Love In Addition To Parents
- Tendency To Return To Childish Behavior, Fought Off By Excessive Activity
- Peer Group Influences Interests And Clothing Styles

14 To 17 Years

Children Of This Age May:

- Self-Involvement, Alternating Between Unrealistically High Expectations And Poor Self Concept
- Complaint That Parents Interfere With Independence
- Extremely Concerned With Appearance And With One’s Own Body
- Lowered Opinions Of Parents, Withdrawal Of Emotions From Them
- Effort To Make New Friends
- Strong Emphasis On The Peer Group With The Group identity Of Selectivity, Superiority And Competitiveness
- Periods Of Sadness As The Psychological Loss Of The Parent Takes Place
- Examination Of Inner Experiences, Which May Include Writing A Diary

17 To 19 Years

Children Of This Age May:

- Firmer Identity
- Ability To Delay Gratification
- Ability To Think Ideas Through
- Ability To Express Feelings In Works
- More Developed Sense Of Humor
- Stable Interests
- Greater Emotional Stability
- Ability To Make Independent Decisions
- Pride in One’s Work
- Self-Reliance
- Greater Concern For Others

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