

AGES AND STAGES

A child goes through many different stages. Each stage has its own characteristics. Some stages are calm, others are not. Sometimes children are at peace with themselves and the world, sometimes they are not. These times of growth and constant change are difficult for the child. Even though parents and siblings probably may be frustrated by the learning stages the child is experiencing, at least they can be assured that the behavior is considered normal for most children.

1-YEAR-OLD

Is learning to walk, talk, and explore

2-YEAR-OLD

Grows in motor and language at a rapid rate
Tries to assert him/herself
May be negative and demanding
Likes to follow rituals
Has great enthusiasm for life
Likes to be warm and affectionate

3-YEAR-OLD

Is more able to please and cooperate
Has a longer attention span
Like to play with friends
Have temporary insecurities
May be uncoordinated at times
Doesn't always like to follow daily routines

4-YEAR-OLD

Wants new freedom and independence
Likes to test "out of bounds" behaviors such as swearing, hitting, or kicking
Has a wide range of feelings
Is friendly, lively, good imagination and is eager to learn

5-YEAR-OLD

Feels content
Uses words rather than physical force
Has good motor skills
Plays alone and with others
Is becoming more interested in reality rather than make-believe
Can handle some responsibility

6-YEAR-OLD

Is outgoing
Like to learn new skills
Is self-centered
Like to be the "boss"
Likes to win
Has many mood shifts that are not enjoyed by adults

7-YEAR-OLD

Is quiet
Acts moody and often complains
Has increased interest in household responsibilities
Is more considerate of others

8-YEAR-OLD

Is self-confident
Ready to tackle the world
Is cooperative and considerate
Makes steady progress in skills and relationships

9-YEAR-OLD

Shows greater independence and self-confidence
Likes to spend time with friends
Is busy with self-initiated projects
Is pleasant to friends and family

10-YEAR-OLD

Really likes him/herself
Likes to be with the family
Takes pride in the family
Likes not being a child nor a teenager

11-YEAR-OLD

Feels stress and turmoil
Feels nervous about growing up
Starting to break from parental influence
Is confused and argumentative, may be hard to live with
Has emotional outbursts
Feels picked on
Maintains good peer relationships

12-YEAR-OLD

Is peaceful, friendly, and easygoing
Looking forward to growing up
Shows more mature behavior

13-YEAR-OLD

Searching for own identity--introspective
Needs privacy
Does not like criticism

14-YEAR-OLD

Deals better with the demands of adolescence
Feels more personally content
Has better personal relationships

15-YEAR-OLD

Is nervous about joining the adult world
Wants freedom, but doesn't really want to leave home
Wants and needs to make independent decisions
Is more reliant on friends than family

16-YEAR-OLD

Is more mature and self appreciating
Acts responsible
Likes to gain independence
Feels comfortable with adults
Is easy to get along with