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