

Stages of Normal Growth and Development: Age 5 - Adolescent

Age 5

- Is close-mouthed at home about school activities.
- Has short bursts of energy.
- Changes from one activity to another with ease.
- Has vague concepts of time.
- Is not fearful.
- Asks many questions about how things work.
- Enjoys cutting, pasting.

Age 6

- Wants and needs to be first, to be loved best, to be praised most and to win.
- Does a good deal of tattling.
- Is very domineering and bossy.
- Is interested in simple games.
- Carries on long conversations.
- Is restless, overactive, and exuberant.
- Usually likes his/her teacher.

Age 7

- Does not respond promptly.
- May forget easily.
- Fights with playmates.
- Is interested in magic, puzzles, and collecting.
- Is concerned about being good.
- Complains and sulks.
- Is easier to discipline, sensitive to praise.

Age 8

- Enjoys jokes and riddles.
- Attention span is improving.
- Is alert, friendly and interested in people but sometimes careless, noisy and argumentative.
- Feelings easily hurt by careless remarks.
- Understand time and money concepts.
- Likes team games.
- Needs frequent reminders about responsibilities.
- Is sensitive to criticism.
- In need of adult praise and encouragement.

Age 9

- Has increased independence.
- Has increasing self-motivation.
- Resents interruptions.
- Has strong sense of right and wrong.
- Is competitive in work and play and is afraid of failure.
- Is more interested in talking and listening than in working.

Age 10

- Is relaxed, casual, and alert.
- Has a strong sense of justice.
- Needs schedules.
- Truly enjoys friends.
- Is in one of the happiest ages.
- Loves the outdoors.

Pre-Adolescent

- Awkward, lazy, and restless because of rapid and uneven growth.
- Very antagonistic and teasing toward the opposite sex.
- Often over-critical, rebellious, and uncooperative.
- In need of a sense of humor from adults.
- Turned off by nagging, condemnation, and being talked down to.
- In need of a feeling of belonging and acceptance.

Adolescent

- Often going to extremes, emotional instability, and know-it-alls.
- Showing a step toward adulthood by asserting independence.
- In need of acceptance by peer group. In need of adult guidance that is kindly and does not threaten freedom.
- Seeking both dependence and independence.
- In need of provision of a constructive recreation, possibly a “worthy cause”.

