



## Characteristics of 12-14 year olds

### *Physical*

- Exhibit a wide range of sexual maturity and growth patterns between genders.
- Experience rapid changes in physical appearance.

### *Social*

- Are interested in activities involving the opposite sex.
- Are looking more to peers than parents.
- Seek acceptance and trust.
- Tend to reject ready-made solutions from adults in favor of their own.
- Question authority and family values.

### *Emotional*

- Compare themselves to others.
- See themselves as always on center stage.
- Body changes can set up situations of great embarrassment.
- Are concerned about social graces and grooming.
- Abandon view of parents as all powerful.
- Strive for independence, yet want and need parents help.

### *Intellectual*

- Think abstractly and hypothetically.
- Are developing skills in the use of logic (cause and effect).
- Can solve problems that have more than one variable.
- Can imagine consequences.
- Challenge assumptions.
- Want to explore the world beyond their own community.

## Characteristics of 15-18 year olds

### *Physical*

- Are concerned about body image.
- Exhibit smaller range in size and maturity among peers.

### *Social*

- Tend to romanticize sexuality.
- Search for intimacy.
- Make commitments.
- Can commit to follow through with service.
- Desire respect.
- Are apt to reject goals set by others.

### *Emotional*

- Are beginning to accept and enjoy their own uniqueness.
- Look for confidence of others in their decisions.
- Develop their own set of values and beliefs.
- Are introspective.
- Can initiate and carry out their own tasks without the supervision of others.
- Search for career possibilities.

### *Intellectual*

- Are mastering abstract thinking.
- Enjoy demonstrating acquired knowledge.
- Can consider many perspectives of a given issue.
- Develop theories to explain how things happen.
- Will lose patience with meaningless activity.



## Characteristics of 6-8 year olds

### *Physical*

- Are mastering physical skills. Better control of large muscles than small muscles.

### *Social*

- Are learning how to be friends and may have several best friends at a time.
- Are becoming more aware of peers and their opinions.
- Are still family oriented.

### *Emotional*

- See fairness as being nice to others so they will be nice in return.
- Seek parental approval.
- Behave in ways to avoid punishment.

### *Intellectual*

- Generalize from own experience.
- More interested in the process than product.
- Learning to sort things into categories.
- Are beginning to develop sense of cause and effect.
- Handle only one mental operation at a time.
- Can distinguish between reality and fantasy.

## Characteristics of 9-11 year olds

### *Physical*

- Experience steady increases in large muscle development, balance and coordination.
- Very active with boundless energy.
- Maturing at differing rates between sexes. Girls will be maturing faster than boys.
- Increasing in small muscle coordination.

### *Social*

- Generally see adults as authority.
- Believe punishment should be a direct consequence of misdeeds.
- Feel loyalty to a group (code language and passwords).
- Identify with same sex group.

### *Emotional*

- View right behavior as “obeying” rules.
- Accept parent/family beliefs.
- Admire and imitate older boys and girls.
- Need involvement with a caring adult.
- Are developing decision-making skills.

### *Intellectual*

- Vary greatly in academic abilities, interest and reasoning skills.
- Have increased attention span.
- Are beginning to think logically and symbolically.
- Have interests in collections and hobbies.
- Want to use their skills to explore the world.