

# Developmental Characteristics Overview

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## **Ages 5 – 8**

Easily motivated—eager to try new thing  
Experimental—like to explore  
Learn best if physically active  
Short attention span—  
    deal with here and now  
All new learning involves use of language  
Sensitive to criticism—  
    do not accept failure well  
Strong desire for affection and  
    attention of adults

## **Ages 9 – 11**

Very active with boundless energy  
Easily motivated—eager to try new things  
Extremely curious—constantly ask “why?”  
Enjoy hands-on activities  
Use concrete thinking  
Learn to locate resources  
Like to explore ideas  
Like group activity  
Learn about self through relationships  
Like to be with members of own sex  
Admire and imitate older boys and girls  
Has rapidly changing interests  
Usually do best when work is laid out in  
    small pieces  
Guidance from parents and other adults  
important if learners are to stay on task and  
    achieve optimum performance  
Do not like keeping records—do not see value  
in them  
Find difficulty in delaying immediate pleasure  
for future goals  
Like symbols and regalia  
Need recognition and praise for doing  
    good work

## **Ages 12 – 14**

Ready for in-depth, longer learning  
    experiences  
Concerned about physical development—  
    sometimes practice excessive grooming  
    behaviors  
Self-conscious—many need help  
    overcoming inferiority complexes  
Want to be liked by friends  
Interested in activities involving boys and  
    girls together  
Interested in sports and active games  
Like fan clubs—many have adult idols  
Getting over the age of fantasy—beginning to  
    think of what they will do when they  
    grow up  
Often unclear of needs and values  
Desire independence—but want and need  
    their parents’ help  
Want to explore outside of their own  
    community

## **Ages 15 – 19**

Social needs and desires are high  
Interested in co-educational activities  
Want and need a strong voice in planning  
    programs  
Want adult leadership roles  
Have interest areas that are more  
    consistent with earlier ones  
Patterns of interest are emerging  
Often need guidance in selecting careers  
Beginning to think about leaving home for  
    college, employment, marriage, or other  
    relationships  
Developing community consciousness

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