

Characteristics of Children at Different Ages

Age 5-6

Noisy. Constantly active, egocentric, exhibitionistic. Imitative and imaginative. Wants attention. Large muscles developed; small muscles not. Short attention span. Tires easily. Interested in what the body can do. Curious.

Age 7-8

Becoming more socially conscious. Longer attention span. Enjoys rhythms and repetitive activities. Has good large muscle control. Likes challenging things. May overestimate ability, but wants to do things for himself/herself. Wants to excel.

Age 9-10

Enjoys team and group activity. Has developed a competitive spirit. Muscles coordination improving, fine muscles developing. Boys want to work with boys and girls with girls.

Age 11-12

Hobbies begin to be very important. Longer attention span developing. Curious and capable of finding answers to questions. Need for leadership opportunities. Likes responsibility and a chance to act in responsible ways.

Age 13-14

Inventive. Looks for challenging activities. Social skills developing and demanded. Problems of adolescence foremost. Desire to belong to some group. Experience with the group is preferred to experience alone.

These characteristics outlined here are in no way considered to be absolute or complete. Children vary greatly from any theoretical norm. Nevertheless, they may help us to better understand the interests and abilities of children at different ages.