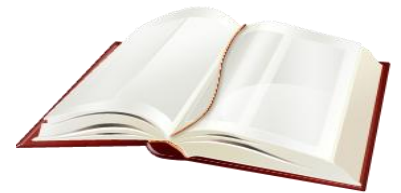


# school age development

## Nine to Eleven Years\*



### Physical Development

Girls:

- Are generally as much as 2 years ahead of boys in physical maturity
- May begin to menstruate

Boys and Girls:

- Have increased body strength and hand dexterity
- Show improved coordination and reaction time
- May begin to grow rapidly at the end of this age period

### Mental Development

- Shows interest in reading fictional stories, magazines, and how-to project books
- May develop special interest in collecting or hobbies
- Fantasizes and daydreams about the future
- Enjoys planning and organizing tasks
- Becomes more product and goal oriented
- Has great ideas and intentions, but difficulty following through
- Enjoys games with more complex rules

### Social and Emotional Development

- Begins to see that parents and authority figures can make mistakes and are not always right
- Often likes rituals, rules, secret codes, and made-up languages
- Enjoys being a member of a club
- Has increased interest in competitive sports
- Has better control of anger
- May belittle or defy adult authority
- Shows interest in opposite sex by teasing, joking, or showing off
- Prefers spending more time with friends than with parents

- May sometimes be verbally cruel to classmates with harsh “put downs” and snide remarks
- Tends to see things as right or wrong, with no room for difference of opinion

### Toys and Hobbies

Arts and craft materials  
Musical instruments  
Sports equipment  
Camping equipment  
Construction sets  
Electric trains  
Models  
Board games  
Skates (with helmets)  
Bicycles (26-inch wheels for kids 10 and older; use helmets)

### Books for Children

- *Chocolate Fever*, Robert Kimmel Smith
- *How To Eat Fried Worms*, Thomas Rockwell
- *The Indian in the Cupboard*, Lynn Banks
- *How It Feels to Be Adopted*, Jill Krementz
- *Nothing’s Fair in Fifth Grade*, Barthe DeClements
- *The Oxford Book of Poetry for Children*, compiled by Edward Blishen
- *Ramona’s World*, Beverly Cleary
- *Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing*, Judy Blume

### Resources for Parents

- *How to Talk So Kids Will Listen and How to Listen So Kids Will Talk*, Adele Faber and Elizabeth Mazlish
- *Caring for Your School-age Child: Ages 5 to 12*, American Academy of Pediatrics
- Parent Center – [www.parentcenter.com](http://www.parentcenter.com)
- Family Education – [www.familyeducation.com](http://www.familyeducation.com)
- Parent Stages – [www.parentstages.com](http://www.parentstages.com)
- Michigan Dept. of Education – [www.michigan.gov/mde](http://www.michigan.gov/mde)

\*Reprinted with permission from National Network for Child Care-NNCC. Oesterreich, L. (1995). Ages & stages-six through eight-year-olds. In L. Oesterreich, B. Holt, & S. Karas, *Iowa family child care handbook* [Pm 1541] (pp. 211-212). Ames, IA: Iowa State University Extension.

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