

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
- Family Education – www.familyeducation.com
- Parent Stages – www.parentstages.com
- Michigan Dept. of Education – 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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