

PreSchool (3-5)

- Develops simplistic idea of good and bad
- Demonstrates inconsistent behavior
- Shares toys, takes turns with assistance
- Interprets emotions from facial expressions and intonation
- Plays cooperatively
- Has no sense of privacy
- Understands concepts of right and wrong
- Often indulges in make-believe
- Exhibits increased frustration tolerance
- Self-esteem reflects opinions of significant others
- Bosses and criticizes
- Displays concern and sympathy
- May show increased aggressive behavior

Early Elementary (6-8)

- **Friendships change rapidly**
- **Leads as well as follows**
- **Chooses own friends**
- **Engages other children in play or role assignments**
- **Wants to be the first and best at everything**
- **Focuses less on one's self and shows more concern for others**
- **Develops positive, realistic self-concept**
- **Begins to learn from mistakes**
- **May become infatuated with teacher or playmate of the opposite sex**
- **Cares for self, room, and belongings**
- **Has a sense of humor and tells jokes**
- **Is self-critical; may express lack of confidence**
- **Dislikes being singled out, even for praise**

Late Elementary (9-11)

- **Is influenced by peer pressure**
- **Seeks immediate gratification**
- **Actively seeks praise**
- **Is highly social**
- **Is both industrious and impatient**
- **Wants to put some distance between self and adults**
- **Can express a wide range of emotions**
- **Understands social roles and appropriate behavior; considers them inflexible**
- **Can be aloof**
- **Controls anger**
- **Shows interest in teen culture — music, videos, makeup**
- **Tries to avoid looking childish**
- **Understands how behavior affects others**
- **Is truthful**
- **Increasingly self-conscious**

Middle Age (12-15)

- Maybe a repeat of the “terrible twos”
- Tries to establish independence and autonomy
- Tends to gossip and talk
- Can adapt behavior to fit situation
- Exhibits “off-color” humor and silliness
- Has little impulse control
- Enjoys recreational activities
- Is energetic and enthusiastic
- Takes on more responsibilities at home
- Takes responsibility for homework with little prodding
- Is socially expansive and aware
- Is competitive and wants to excel
- Can show extremes of emotions
- Enjoys close interactions with peers, especially same gender
- Wants immediate gratification