

Adolescent In This Age Group...

Intellectual Development:

- o Display a wide range of individual intellectual development
- o Are in a transition period from concrete thinking to abstract thinking
- o Are intensely curious and have a wide range of intellectual pursuits, few of which are sustained
- o Prefer active over passive learning experiences
- o Prefer interaction with peers during learning activities
- o Respond positively to opportunities to participate in real life situations
- o Are often preoccupied with self
- o Have a strong need for approval and may be easily discouraged
- o Develop an increasingly better understanding of personal abilities
- o Are inquisitive about adults, often challenging their authority, and always observing them
- o May show disinterest in conventional academic subjects but are intellectually curious about the world and themselves
- o Are developing a capacity to understand higher levels of humor

Moral Development:

- o Are generally idealistic, desiring to make the world a better place and to become socially useful
- o Are in transition from moral reasoning which focuses on "what's in it for me" to that which considers the feelings and rights of others
- o Often show compassion for those who are downtrodden or suffering and have special concern for animals and the environmental problems that our world faces
- o Are moving from acceptance of adult moral judgments to development of their own personal values; nevertheless, they tend to embrace values consonant with those of their parents
- o Rely on parents and significant adults for advice when facing major decisions
- o Increasingly assess moral matters in shades of grey as opposed to viewing them in black and white terms characteristic of younger children
- o At times are quick to see flaws in others but slow to acknowledge their own faults
- o Owing to their lack of experience are often impatient with the pace of change, underestimating the difficulties in making desired social changes
- o Are capable of and value direct experience in participatory democracy
- o Greatly need and are influenced by adult role models who will listen to them and affirm their moral consciousness and actions as being trustworthy role models
- o Are increasingly aware of and concerned about inconsistencies between values exhibited by adults and the conditions they see in society