

# AGES AND STAGES OF CHILDHOOD

## 12 YEARS – 18 YEARS

Below you will find some ways children often act at certain ages. Remember all children are different, so don't be alarmed if your child doesn't do something that another child the same age is doing.

Typical behavior for any given age does not mean that all children will act that way all the time. The order in which these stages follow each other is important.

### 12 years old

- ✦ Groups of friends very important
- ✦ Peer groups play role in shaping interests and attitudes
- ✦ Less insistent, more reasonable and more sociable
- ✦ Indecisive because they can see the larger picture – abstract thinking undeveloped
- ✦ Outgoing, enthusiastic, and generous
- ✦ Emotions are carried to extremes
- ✦ Emotionally uncomplicated
- ✦ More self insight, less self centered
- ✦ Seeking to win approval from others
- ✦ Shows reasonableness, tolerance, and humor



### 13 years old

- ✦ Fragile
- ✦ Preoccupation with self
- ✦ Help them save face
- ✦ Appears sullen and glum without actually being ill – humored or unsociable
- ✦ Less conversation, less humor, more shy
- ✦ "Very Sensitive", least happy of adolescent years, most depressed age of adolescence
- ✦ Likes to keep to self, and decrease of friendships
- ✦ Indulges in many private worries
- ✦ Constant reflective thinking
- ✦ Fond of school, with fair and efficient discipline
- ✦ Gradual turning inward
- ✦ Readiness to learn and a desire to exercise independence of thought

### 14 years old

- ✦ Sexual experimentation
- ✦ Challenges everything and everyone in authority
- ✦ Needs to be heard, mouths – off, acts like a know – it – all
- ✦ Gets along better with parents and siblings
- ✦ More open about expressing feelings
- ✦ Accepts personal strengths and weaknesses
- ✦ Friendships close again, yet based on personality and similar interests
- ✦ A more mature attitude toward family yet is hypercritical and embarrassed by parental conduct
- ✦ Capacity to perceive how others feel and to see himself as other see him
- ✦ Beginning of interminable phone communications, silly, happy, serious, and hushed
- ✦ Abundant energy, outgoing friendliness, awareness of ideals
- ✦ Growing comprehension and command of words and an exuberant inclination to reason

### 15 years old

- ✦ Sexual experimentation
- ✦ Contradictions
- ✦ Thinks of future
- ✦ Nurtures feelings of grudge, revenge, and violence
- ✦ Questions parent's values (can be a positive thing)
- ✦ High incident of school drop – out, drugs, alcohol, and teen pregnancy
- ✦ The gloom this age may be a reflection and awareness that childhood is gone and nearing adulthood is fearful
- ✦ Apathy and lethargy, seen as "lazy" or uncommunicative
- ✦ Friendships in groups rather than one – to – one
- ✦ Just lets things happen
- ✦ Negative attitude toward home, family and school



### 16 years old

- ✦ Sexual experimentation
- ✦ Wholesome self – assurance, much companionship on a non – romantic basis
- ✦ Mixed groups socialize together
- ✦ More tolerant of the world in general
- ✦ Even disposition
- ✦ Emotions are stabilized, isn't prone to worrying, seldom cries, usually curbs anger, likes laughter, cheerful, outgoing and friendly
- ✦ Observation is sharpened by increased powers of judgment
- ✦ Equilibrium compared to a 10 year old
- ✦ Interested in human nature
- ✦ Recognizes the importance of both written and unwritten codes of conduct

### 17 years old

- ✦ Often gets involved in health risk behaviors
- ✦ Reacts to society's expectations
- ✦ Seeks group identity

### 18 years old

- ✦ Less self – absorbed
- ✦ Re – establish family ties
- ✦ Considerate of other's needs
- ✦ Realistic self image



# Ages and Stages of Childhood 12yrs – 18yrs



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