



Ten to Twelve Year Olds

Children in this age group are experiencing many physical, mental and emotional changes however; developmental milestones are not as obvious as in younger children. Age appropriate activities, skill readiness and developmental milestones may vary greatly from child to child. Children of this age group are developing a strong sense of self and are motivated by social acceptance and achievement. They have a powerful sense of right and wrong. Healthy friendships help to foster the child's growing need for independence from family. Often they feel they no longer need adult care or supervision only to find they are lonely, unhappy or even frightened when left alone. As they progress through this stage abstract thinking increases, likes and dislikes become well-defined and peer pressure increases.

Developmental milestones:

- Body strength and stamina increase.
- Manual dexterity increases.
- Coordination and reaction time improve.
- Independence from family increases.
- Ability to process abstract concepts expands.
- Ability to form stronger, more complex friendships increases.
- Exhibits early signs of puberty.
- Ability to effectively use technology to support schoolwork.

Basic Curriculum for this age group should include:

- Material directed to stimulation of critical thinking skills.
- Gross motor activities requiring both skill and stamina.
- More complex assignments that incorporate a variety of materials into school work (i.e. oral, visual and written).
- Unit curriculum focusing on a theme that includes more than one academic subject area.
- Lessons which involve ethical or moral judgment.
- Higher level math with fractions, decimals, estimation, etc.
- Encouraging relationship skills through social interaction with peers.
- Incorporating technology into simple assignments.