



## Seven to Nine Year Olds

Children in this age group have advanced beyond basic skill acquisition and continue to refine both gross and fine motor, language and social skills. They often view the world with a fairly rigid separation of male and female. Play is cooperative, however, it is often gender differentiated (i.e. males play with males, females with females). The ability to distinguish between fantasy and reality develops at the mid-point of this developmental stage. Children begin to see the world as it is rather than as they want it to be. They are egocentric and have more concern for others.

### *Developmental milestones:*

- Uses scissors and writing implements effectively.
- Ties shoes without assistance.
- Written and spoken vocabulary increase exponentially
- Abstract thinking is beginning to develop, but is not advanced. Concrete thinking still dominates reasoning.
- Problem-solving skills becoming more developed.
- Understands and uses classification systems.
- Peer socialization and interaction become valued.

### *Basic Curriculum for this age group should include:*

- Writing simple stories and plays.
- Multi step problems to stimulate abstract thinking and non-traditional answers.
- Addition, subtraction, multiplication and division (as readiness indicates).
- Manipulatives to tap into concrete thinking.
- Cooperative play and non-competitive games.
- Movement to continually refine small and large motor skills.
- New literary forms such as poetry.