



#TheLink

#PositivemindsPositive Futures

## Social, Emotional and Moral Development

Information for anyone who lives and/or works with children and young people.

### Age 5 to 6 years

#### Developmental tasks

- To learn between reality and fantasy.
- To become comfortable with own gender.
- To make connections and distinctions between feelings, thoughts and actions.
- To solve problems by initiating and creating

#### Indicators Related to Developmental Lag

- Excessive fears
- Extreme separation anxiety
- Bedwetting
- Shyness
- Threatening or bullying peers
- Inhibited play
- Ritualistic behaviours, especially around food
- Persistent speech problems
- Toileting problems
- Excessive fear of strangers
- Lack of interest in others.

Normal Characteristics	Suggested behaviour for effective parenting
Is able to care for own toilet needs independently.	
Can dress and undress self	Allow independence with clothing
May fear mother won't return, since mother is the centre of the child's world.	Avoid leaving until the child is prepared for mothers departure or return
Copies adults and likes praise	Child needs reassurance
Plays with boys and girls; is calm and friendly; is not too demanding in relations with others; can play with one child or a group of children though prefers members of the same sex	Rejoice and give opportunities for group play
Likes conversations during meals	Allow and respond to child initiated conversation
Knows differences in sexes and is more modest	Don't shame child for interest in sexual differences or touching self
Is interested in where babies come from	Offer simple accurate explanation
If they don't like school they may develop nausea or vomiting	Encourage them to find enjoyable activities in school
Is experiencing an age of conformity; is critical of those who do not conform	Help the child to learn the value of individual differences.
In general is reliable and well adjusted	Be grateful
May show some fear of the dark, falling, dogs or bodily harm, though this is not a particularly fearful age	Don't dismiss the fears as unimportant
If tired , nervous or upset they may exhibit the following behaviours: nail biting, eye blinking, throat clearing, sniffing	Temporary nervous habits are normal. Deal with the cause of the tension rather than the habit exhibited.. Help the child construct time to include quiet play and rest. Read the child a story.
Is concerned with pleasing adults	Show your love by recognizing positive behaviours
Is easily embarrassed	Be sensitive about embarrassing things.
Is interested in being good, but may tell untruths or blame others for wrongdoing because of intense desire to please and do right	Not be shocked by untruthfulness =. Lying is not a trait to come down hard on at this age. Help them accept responsibility for their actions in an positive and caring manner
Wants to do what they believe is right and avoid what is wrong.	Acknowledge their attempts to act in accordance with their own beliefs. Don't punish someone for inability to always behave properly.

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