



Social, Emotional and Moral Development

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

#TheLink

#PositivemindsPositive Futures

Age 12 to 15 years

Developmental tasks

- To create own personal identity based upon the integration of values and sense of self in relation to society, others, the opposite sex, the future, vocation, ideas and the cosmos.

Indicators Related to Developmental Lag

- Delays in physical and sexual development
- Depression,
- Suicide attempts
- Sense of isolation
- Loneliness
- Impulsiveness
- Extreme rebellion
- Denial of feelings
- Poor hygiene
- Fantasy as an escape from problems
- Alcohol/drug abuse
- Anorexia nervosa, bulimia, obesity
- Sexual activity to provide missing nurturance
- Prostitution
- Stealing
- Pathological lying
- Psychosis
- Truancy
- Running away
- Pregnancy
- Juvenile delinquency

Normal Characteristics	Suggested behaviour for effective parenting
Girls are gradually reaching physical and sexual maturity. Boys are beginning to mature physically and sexually.	Explain to the child what is happening. Discourage comparison with peers.
Increased likelihood of acting on sexual desires.	Provide accurate information on consequences of sexual activity. Discuss birth control and safe sex practices.
Is concerned with appearance.	Comment favourably on youth's concerns with appearance.
Thrives on arguments and discussions.	Don't let discussions become arguments; don't put down the youths' ideas.
Increasingly able to memorise; to think logically about concepts; to engage in introspection and probing into own thinking; to plan realistically for the future.	Encourage exploration of thought and deed; provide books, library cards ect.
Withdraws from parents, who are invariably called "old fashioned".	Don't feel hurt or take it personally. Remember you are still important, but not in the same way that you were.
Boys usually resist a show of affection.	Respect boundaries but continue to be affectionate.
Usually feels parents are too restrictive; rebels.	Set clear, firm, but flexible limits.
Needs less family companionship and interaction.	Allow youth more opportunities for independent social activities.
Has less intense friendships with those of the same sex; usually has whole gang of friends. Girls show more interest in opposite sex than boys do.	Don't criticise youth's need for friends or particular friends.
Annoyed by younger siblings.	Accept youth's feelings and help younger siblings cope with rejection.
Commonly sulks; directs verbal anger at authority figures.	Accept feelings and expect respect for your feelings as well.
worries about grades, appearance, and popularity; is withdrawn, introspective.	Don't dismiss youth's concerns; provide accurate feedback.
Knows right and wrong; tries to weigh alternatives and arrive at decisions alone.	Facilitate youth's decision making.
Is concerned about fair treatment of others; is usually reasonably thoughtful; is unlikely to lie.	Demonstrate respect for youth as an emerging adult.

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01642 505580

info@redcarlink.com



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