



BANK STREET COLLEGE OF EDUCATION  
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## DEVELOPMENTAL CHARACTERISTICS OF CHILDREN

### Middle Years Grades 4-6<sup>th</sup> (8-12 years)

1. Peer group strengthens, stronger movement away from adults.
2. Greater interest in other times and places.
3. Aware of multi-perspectives, less absolute in thinking.
4. Can deal with relativity of ideas, etc.
5. Increasing depersonalization, self is less and less in center of the universe both socially and intellectually.
6. Growing awareness of the self, who am I, what can I do?
7. Peer group growing forum for working out socialization.
8. Friendships more stable and based more and more on mutual interests rather than just age.
9. Separation of sexes growing.
10. Identification with same sex heroes very strong
11. Maturing intellectual concepts, thinking more abstractly, can handle transformations of role, matter, etc.
12. Able to handle abstract relationships among concrete phenomenon, grouping, sub grouping, seriation.
13. Increasing mastery of symbolic world and growing ability to sustain interest in abstractions, e.g. follow stories about other times and places.
14. Learn in large measure by identification "Becoming" with strong factual orientation.
15. Relationships with adults based on "peer" rather than dependency status.