



BANK STREET COLLEGE OF EDUCATION  
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## DEVELOPMENTAL CHARACTERISTICS OF CHILDREN

### Primary Grades K-2<sup>nd</sup> (5-7 years)

1. Curious about immediate observable world.
2. Learn primarily through direct contact with objects and people.
3. Learn by exploring, touching, manipulating, experimenting.
4. Desire to know "facts."
5. Ridged about rules, uni-perspective.
6. Desire for mastery over symbolic systems growing (reading, math, etc).
7. Pleasure from concrete self-made products.
8. Mastery of small and large motor skills important.
9. Need to be competent is growing i.e. like adults.
10. Assumes outside order and expects everything to fit into it.
11. Age of extremes, black and whites, problems with subtleties of any sort- in physical and social world.
12. Growing identification with peer group.
13. Need for adult support and direction acceptable.
14. Peer group beginning to strengthen, still fluid.'
15. Can begin to classify and generalize about concrete world.
16. Reference point moving from egocentric to socio-centric.
17. Main learning style, identification- play.
18. Works out intellectual complexities by playing them out (i.e. reorganizing the world symbolically through blocks to make sense of it.)
19. Magical, pre-logical thinking characterizes much of this age span.