

THINKING

- Defines work habits.
 - Concerned about future educational plans.
 - Able to sense right from wrong.
 - Better at solving problems.
 - Tends to make rash decisions even though they weigh the consequences first.
 - Develops an increased awareness of her own thoughts.
 - Able to develop alternate solution for problems.
 - Engages in critical thinking.
 - Puts more emphasis on personal development (mental and social) wherever possible.
 - Makes youth aware that in these situations they are making decisions for themselves or a group like themselves.
- Spends less time with parents and more time with peers.
 - Wants to establish his identity.

SOCIAL/EMOTIONAL

- May be quarrelsome and reluctant to communicate.
- Strong desire to be independent wants to do what she wants and be free of family.
- Strong relationship with siblings than with parents.
- Decides that friends are important.
- Relationship with family is easy and giving.
- Starts to look at parents as people rather than rule makers.
- Decreases conflict with parents.



AMERICAN SAMOA PARENTAL INFORMATION RESOURCE CENTER

TIPS ON CHILDREN'S DEVELOPMENTAL MILESTONES

15 Years to 18 Years

Child development is a process every child goes through. This process involves learning and mastering skills like sitting, walking, talking, skipping, and tying shoes. Children



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This brochure was made possible by a grant from the
U.S. Dept. of Education. Permission for the
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learn these skills, call developmental milestones, during predictable time periods. From kindergarten through high school, youth pass through four developmental stages. Specialists often identify these periods as:

- Infancy and Toddler: Ages 0-2
- Pre-School: Ages 3-4
- Early Children: Ages 5-8
- Middle Childhood: Ages 9-11
- Early Adolescence: Ages 12-14
- Middle Adolescence: Ages 15-18

The four main areas of developmental milestones where children's skills are measured are:

1. Physical
2. Social and Emotional
3. Thinking
4. Communication

Although children differ in the rate at which they develop, the order of the stages does not vary. While it is extremely important to remember that every child is unique and special in his or her own right, some needs and interests are universal to all children to ensure successful development.

For example:

- Children need to experience a positive self concept.

- Children need to experience success in what they attempt to do.
- Children need to become increasingly independent.
- Children need to give and receive attention.
- Children need to experience adventure.
- Children need to be accepted by people of different ages-peers as well as those in authority.

These needs continue from infancy through old age. Others need vary for different children and different ages. Children develop at their own rate, and all characteristics will not be observed in all children at the same age or at the same stage of development. Keep in mind the following two basic developmental principles.

1. Age is not a perfect predictor of maturity. Most children go through predictable order, but ages at which they do this will vary enormously. An activity that is well within the capability of one child may be much too difficult for another child exactly the same age.
2. Growth may proceed at different rate in various developmental areas within an individual child. A child who is advanced physically may be

average in terms of mental ability and below average in terms of emotional and social growth. A child may need different experiences in each of these areas to reach his or her full potential.

PHYSICAL

- Develops unique personality and opinions.
- Facial hair begins to grow.
- Challenges family beliefs and morals.
- Increased hormone levels.
- Grows taller and gaining weight.
- Begins to think of leaving home for college, employment, marriage, etc...
- Needs life planning guidance.
- Strong desire for status in peer group.

COMMUNICATION

- Communicates in adult manner with increasing maturity.
- Plans coeducational and group-oriented projects or activities.
- Recommends civic projects that are a service to others.
- Needs to introduce youth to other setting through tours and

trips to state and interstate
conferences.

- Comprehends abstract
language.
- Has a deeper exploration of
leadership roles.
- Provides learning experiences
outside of the community.