



### Select Developmental Characteristics: (approximately age 10)

A typical 10-year-old child...

#### Boy

- has same-sex friendships - boys may have a few best friends and casual acquaintances, and these relationships tend to be based on mutual interests, such as membership in a club or sports team.
- is seldom interested in girls, except to tease them or scare them; some boys will have a “girlfriend” but tend to be very casual about it.
- shows few signs of puberty and are far less concerned about physical maturity than girls.

#### Girl

- has same-sex friendships - girls are becoming more possessive of their friends, enjoy shared secrets with friends, and care deeply about best friends.
- is not consumed by romantic interest in the opposite sex - most girls show little interest in boys, though some will begin to have crushes.
- is beginning to show physical signs and an awareness of approaching puberty.

Additionally, 10-year old boys and girls both

- are capable of considering multiple possibilities in order to solve problems.
- can reason out the consequences of an action and generate hypotheses.
- are highly attuned to the peer group and recognize their place in it.
- acceptance by the peer group is a critical step that seems to have a strong effect on the next level of development.
- may commonly request sleepovers.
- may play well in groups or team sports.
- may have good ability to sense the emotions of others and to read facial expressions and body language.
- may have fleeting moments of being angry or sad, but these emotions will usually pass quickly.
- often enjoy reading or being read to - adventures, mysteries, and biographies of famous people are favorites.
- seek help with academics when needed - exhibits self-control, accept feedback, assume responsibility, show quality in work, observe school rules, can work independently, follow directions, use time wisely, have cooperative attitudes, and generally like school.
- are generally compliant to parents and authority figures.