



Select Developmental Characteristics: (approximately age 7)

A typical 7-year-old child...

- enjoys planning activities.
- appreciates the structure of day-to-day schedules and looks forward to situations that involve repetition and routine.
- may try to solve problems on his/her own before asking an adult for help.
- uses creative strategies when problem solving.
- is consistently improving language skills and his/her ability to put words into context using hints or clues about that word.
- considers friends to be an important part of his/her identity and is likely to have a group of friends based on environment, such as classroom or a shared sports team.
- may begin noticing the impact his/her behavior has on other people, and gaining new awareness of other's emotions.
- is improving comprehension including following directions; up to two, three, and four steps at a time.
- can be self-critical at this stage and may even shy away or disengage from activities because of feelings of inadequacy.
- feels family is an important part of his/her identity and is likely to relate stories and experiences by comparing it to his/her own home environment.
- is showing more complex understanding of his/her emotions and practicing strategies to cope with uneasy emotions.
- has a sense of independence, which is growing and is working to solve social problems through negotiation and other strategies.
- is improving conversation skills and both listening and exchange are becoming more natural, although may still act fidgety and impatient if not engaged at an early point in the discussion.
- seeks to please important adults in his/her life such as parents and teachers.
- is creative and often mimics others behaviors, which will lead to enjoying role plays and other interactive scenarios.
- is developing language skills at a fast pace including understanding new words in context.
- enjoys problem solving, especially puzzles and riddles when his/her new vocabulary can be applied.
- is thinking in more abstract ways, and benefits from asking questions and summarizing information with adults.