



### Select Developmental Characteristics: (approximately age 11)

A typical 11-year-old child...

- is exploring many levels of his/her identity between childhood and adolescence and is thinking about his/her changing physical body and social roles.
- has many emotions about physical changes and developing sexuality (this can vary by culture, family expectations, and community environment).
- has an increased understanding and application for abstract thought.
- has an interest in important issues and wants to evaluate fairness.
- has started to examine job and career identities.
- can begin to recognize his/her own limitations.
- will compare themselves to others.
- Is experiencing rapid changes in his/her physical appearance which may lead to feelings of insecurity and to heightened body image awareness.
- is experiencing development of female and male reproductive organs, with females tending to grow and mature earlier than males.
- is experiencing new body hair in arm pits and private body parts for both males and females.
- has body and related concerns about being normal.
- looks for meaningful relationships outside of the home, this could be mentors, teachers, and close friendships.
- spends more time speaking and communicating with friends outside of school.
- is very concerned about fitting in both at school and outside (e.g., recreation, church, community).
- has started to develop interest in romantic relationships and is exploring how to interact with the opposite sex (type of interactions varies depending on culture, family expectations, and community environment) this includes some pairing off but does not mean a drastic change in his/her friendships.
- is able to communicate feelings and thoughts more effectively.
- will often seek out the opinion of peers before family.
- starts to ask about or use technology independently from parents or caregivers including both cell phones and Internet.
- is starting to seek privacy from parents.
- wants to be independent in decision making while desiring information so that he/she can make informed decisions.
- wants to understand rules and boundaries through testing limits.
- asks a lot of questions to gain deeper understanding and challenge assumptions.