



# LAKE LOUISE

A sanctuary empowering personal growth, faith, and knowledge within community.

## Developmental Characteristics Study Early Elementary

### Physical

- Mastering physical skills
- Better control of large muscles than small muscles
- High activity level (restless and fidgety)
- Developing hand-eye coordination

### Emotional

- See fairness as being nice to others so they will be nice in return
- Seek parent and adult approval
- Behave in ways to avoid punishment
- Developing modesty
- Expressing feelings and emotions, upsets are usually short-term

### Intellectual

- Increasing attention span (activities best limited to 15 – 30 minutes)
- More interested in process than product
- Learning to sort things into categories and arrange in a series
- Learning concepts of right and wrong, cause and effect
- Handle well only one mental operation at a time
- Can distinguish between reality and fantasy, but may be afraid of scary figures

### Social

- Learning to be friends and have best friends
- Becoming aware of peers and their opinions
- Beginning to experience empathy for others
- Still family oriented (beginning to relate to non-family adults)
- Becoming aware of sexual differences
- Want to structure their environment as home is structured
- Want assurance of an adult's presence

### Spiritual

- Open to learning about God
- Not able to think logically about God or express their feelings
- Learning to sing and recognize familiar Bible verses
- Talk with God easily if encouraged
- Accept almost everything they are told or exposed to about God



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## Developmental Characteristics Study Late Elementary and Pre-teen

### Physical

- Small hand muscles develop]
- Extremely active and eat a lot
- Interested in active, competitive games
- More easily tired after physical activity
- Can be "picky" about food choices
- Speed/accuracy improve as age increase
- Generally healthy and disease-free
- Boys usually stronger w/ more endurance, taller and heavier to age 10-11
- Girls mature physically about two (2) years before boys often beginning at age 10-11

### Emotional

- Show fewer fears than 6-8 year olds
- Loyal to peers instead of family
- Embarrassed to show affection to parents in public
- Prone to "crushes" or "hero worship"
- Gain satisfaction from achievement
- Influenced by praise from adults
- Like to help make family decisions
- Enjoy community service

### Intellectual

- Enjoy adventure stories and biographies, movies, comics, collecting, TV
- Develop hobbies, like to build things
- Learn to use reference materials (print & digital)
- Begin to draw conclusions and generalize
- Begin to recognize value of money
- Concrete thinkers
- Eager to do things of interest

### Social

- Like team games
- Want to be a part of a social group
- Try to act and dress like everyone else
- Grow in self-reliance and independence
- Interest in those whom they find attractive grows with age
- Begin to challenge adult authority
- Keen sense of right and wrong
- May be careless about appearance
- Want some social approval from adults
- May act sill, enjoy practical jokes
- Becomes secretive around parents
- Become concerned with what others think

### Spiritual

- Begin to see religious concepts as significant to life
- Develop independent religious and ethical values
- Begin to understand significance of history for Christianity
- Develop strong verbal skills relating to religious choices
- Able to question, evaluate, form convictions
- Begin to identify with a community of believers
- Crucial decisions between "I can contribute" and "I am worthless"



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## Developmental Characteristics Study Early and Late Teen

### Physical

- Rapid physical change, can begin at any age, pace is different for everyone, may cause awkwardness, levels off by late teen years
- Secondary sexual characteristics appear
- Rapid growth in strength, coordination, and athletic ability; control increases
- Physical appearance is a major concern
- Team sports and group activities are important

### Emotional

- Puberty onset produces emotional swings
- Search for sexual identity may cause conflict with one or both parents
- Rapid change occurs, causing mood swings
- Personal changes cause return to ego-centric
- Sexual interests and fantasies grow, some teens will experiment
- Most teens have full capacity for reproduction but lack emotional maturity to raise children

### Intellectual

- Change schools at grades 6-7 and 9-10 – new buildings may increase in size
- Some choose academic interest area while others may drop out of school (perhaps returning)
- May begin first part or full-time job
- School activities replace family activities
- Social/political issues gain importance
- Abstract thinking develops
- Driver's license very important
- Adopt or reject stereotypes/prejudices
- Attention span increases with age
- May appear spontaneous or flighty
- Able to handle more responsibility
- May experience interracial community for the first time

### Social

- Very eager for peer acceptance
- Spend most of their time with friends
- Distance from parents often increases
- Considerable anxiety about personal identity; self-esteem fluctuates
- Ethnicity important for ethnic youth
- May experiment with various roles
- Movement from same-sex friends to friendships with opposite sex; in some cases to exclusive relationships
- Some become leaders, others loners
- Independence increases in importance and authority is often viewed as a threat
- Like popular music, television, movies

### Spiritual

- May undergo confirmation, may take on church leadership
- Some involved in church youth group, others drop out
- Some find meaning in church experiences for first time
- Begin to question literal faith of childhood
- Religious knowledge may be minimal and poorly organized
- Begin to consider conflict of faith and lifestyle
- Begin to develop person faith, may consider "call"
- Obedience replaced by questioning of established laws
- Faith may be challenged by temptation of legal/illegal drugs



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## Developmental Characteristics Study Application

Please consider the below questions for each age group, focusing specifically on application for the age of your campers.

What surprises you about the physical characteristics mentioned?

What plans can you make before camp starts to make your cabin a healthy place for this age group?

What emotional characteristics make you uncomfortable? What could you do to minimize your discomfort?

What social and emotional characteristics do you feel well equipped to deal with?

What do you really like about this age group?

How does this year's plan for camp (specifically the curriculum) address the religious characteristics of this age group?

What resources could you bring to add to the faith development of your campers?