# Developmental Milestones for School Age Children

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| 5 years    | • Counts 10 or more things  
• Can draw a person with at least 6 body parts  
• Can print some letters or numbers  
• Understands that stories have a beginning, middle, and end  
• Sorts objects by size | • Wants to please friends  
• Likes pretend play with other children  
• Shows concern for others  
• Is aware of gender  
• Makes up games with simple rules  
• Has an understanding of right and wrong  
• Shows more independence | • Uses a fork, spoon, and sometimes knife to eat  
• Skips and runs on tiptoe  
• Uses toilet on her own  
• May be able to skip  
• Jumps rope  
• May be able to tie shoelaces |
| 6-8 years  | • Rapid development of mental skills  
• Learns better ways to describe experiences  
• Enjoys planning and building  
• Longer attention span  
• Begins understanding of time  
• Begins learning difference between left and right | • Less focus on self and more concern for others  
• Shows more independence from parents and family  
• Starts to think about future  
• Understands more about his/her place in the world  
• Interest in rules and rituals  
• Pays more attention to friends  
• Finds criticism or failure difficult to handle  
• Wants to be liked and accepted by friends  
• Girls want to play more with girls; boys with boys  
• Views things as black or white, right or wrong, wonderful or terrible, with little middle ground | • Skilled at using scissors and small tools  
• Enjoys testing muscle strength and skills  
• Good sense of balance  
• Can copy designs, shapes, letters, and numbers |
## Age 9-11 years

### Cognitive (learning, thinking, problem-solving)
- More academic challenges at school
- Increased attention span
- Begins to see other points of view more clearly
- Interested in reading fictional stories, magazines, and how-to project books
- May develop special interest in collections or hobbies
- May be interested in discussing a future career
- Daydreams about the future

### Social and emotional (skills with others)
- Forms stronger, more complex friendships and peer relationships
- Emotionally important to have friends, especially of the same sex
- Increased interest in competitive sports
- Rituals, rules, secret codes, and made-up languages are common
- Enjoys being member of a club
- More independent from family
- Outbursts of anger are less frequent
- May belittle or defy adult authority
- Experiences more peer pressure

### Physical development (movement and muscles)
- Girls are generally as much as two years ahead of boys in physical maturity
- Girls may begin to menstruate
- Increased body strength and use of hands
- Improved coordination and reaction time
- Girls are generally as much as two years ahead of boys in physical maturity

### References