



## DEVELOPMENTAL STAGE CHARACTERISTICS

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### **EARLY ADOLESCENCE**

Age 13 through age 15

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Abstract thinker.

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Fragile emotional stage.

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Indecisive.

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Rebellion over independence.

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Wonders about role in society.

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Wants to fit in with peers, can  
easily cave to peer pressure.

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Works cooperatively with peers.

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Social, but begins to form smaller  
group of close friends.

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Great physical changes can lead to  
confusion and/or insecurity.

## DEVELOPMENTAL STAGE NEEDS

### EARLY ADOLESCENCE

Age 13 through age 15

*Great things happen  
when adults consider what  
children need to grow  
and develop!*

#### NEEDS FROM PARENTS

- Make an extra effort to understand the leap in development and changing needs of adolescents.
- Provide greater support and understanding for emotional upheavals.
- Be hyper-vigilant to peer pressure and guide them in good choices.
- Consider boarding school or some other means for your child to spend time away from you because of their strong need for independence at this age.
- Exercise your liberty to choose the most effective learning environment for your children.
- Provide guidance on how to set and achieve goals.
- Intentionally guide them toward a life of independence and contribution.
- Encourage schools to teach principles of economic freedom and act as models for your children as you make choices for the family.
- Continue to model and guide them toward peaceful resolution of conflicts and development of moral judgment and empathy.
- Provide opportunities to take an active role in determining how they should behave as good humans and offer consequences for poor behavior.

#### NEEDS FROM EDUCATORS

- Demonstrate a strong understanding of adolescent development and its application to learning.
- Create a school environment based on adolescent developmental needs and demonstrate a strong commitment to considering those needs when proposing any actions.
- Create a school environment that views parents and students as partners and thrives on community input.
- Provide opportunities for good relationships with teachers and others who are positive role models and can offer guidance and life experiences for exploring interests and career options.
- Provide guidance on how to turn vast amounts of information into relevant knowledge.
- Provide freedom of movement in learning environments including working with, and learning from, nature.
- Provide opportunities to apply learned concepts to practical life situations.
- Provide opportunities for peer teaching and collaborative learning.
- Provide opportunities to mentor younger children and learn from older students.
- Provide opportunities to take an active role in determining what good human behavior is and consequences for poor behavior.

#### NEEDS FROM THE COMMUNITY

- Consider your community to be a classroom where children and young people can gain real experiences and have meaningful participation.
- Provide opportunities for young people to participate in community events where they can use their youth as a gift.
- For political leaders, law enforcement and business owners, provide and encourage opportunities for age-appropriate interaction and participation on a regular basis.
- Provide opportunities for good relationships with community spark plugs who are positive role models and can offer guidance and life experiences for exploring interests and future career options.
- Provide opportunities for young people to participate in community events where they can apply learned concepts to practical life situations.
- Provide opportunities for young people to build a self-image as a contributor to their community.
- Provide fun, educational and cultural opportunities for parents and children.
- For organizations that interact with youth (YMCA's, youth sports, etc.), understand what young people need to thrive at this age and employ adults who can be good role models for character development, self-esteem and self-confidence.



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## DEVELOPMENTAL STAGE CHARACTERISTICS

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### **ADOLESCENCE**

*Age 15 through age 18*

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**Advanced reasoning skills.**

**Risk-taking and impulsiveness.**

May lead to experimentation with drugs and other destructive behavior

**Becoming a more logical and hypothetical**

**thinker.** Doesn't always think about or understand consequences of impulsive actions

**Socially conscious.** Social justice issues become important

**May become involved in philanthropy if led in that direction.**

**Searching for a sense of purpose.**

**Begins thinking about self as independent of family.**

**Begins thinking of a career.**

## DEVELOPMENTAL STAGE NEEDS

### ADOLESCENCE

Age 15 through age 18

**Great things happen  
when adults consider what  
children need to grow  
and develop!**

#### NEEDS FROM PARENTS

- Make an extra effort to understand the leap in development and changing needs of adolescents.
- Provide greater support and understanding for emotional upheavals.
- Be hyper-vigilant to peer pressure and guide them in good choices.
- Provide opportunities to make decisions about their personal needs and learn from mistakes.
- Exercise your liberty to choose the most effective learning environment for your children.
- Intentionally guide them toward a life of independence and contribution.
- Provide guidance with how to set and achieve goals.
- Encourage schools to teach principles of economic freedom and act as models for your children as you make choices for the family.
- Continue to model and guide them toward peaceful resolution of conflicts and development of moral judgment and empathy.
- Provide opportunities to take an active role in determining how they should behave as good humans and offer consequences for poor behavior.
- Create a supportive environment of family and mentors as your child explores options for satisfying leisure activities and personal achievements.
- Provide opportunities to participate in controlled risky experiences such as sports, rock climbing, etc.

#### NEEDS FROM EDUCATORS

- Demonstrate a strong understanding of adolescent development and its application to learning.
- Create a school environment based on adolescent developmental needs and demonstrate a strong commitment to considering those needs when proposing any actions.
- Create a school environment that views parents and students as partners and thrives on community input.
- Provide opportunities for good relationships with teachers and others who are positive role models and can offer guidance and life experiences for exploring interests and career options.
- Provide guidance on how to turn vast amounts of information into relevant knowledge.
- Provide freedom of movement in learning environments including working with, and learning from and in, nature.
- Provide opportunities to apply learned concepts to practical life situations.
- Provide opportunities to mentor younger children and learn from older students and adult mentors.
- Provide opportunities to take an active role in determining what good human behavior is and consequences for poor behavior.
- Provide up-to-date information on careers, education programs and market trends as well as opportunities for internships to explore career choices.

#### NEEDS FROM THE COMMUNITY

- Consider your community to be a classroom where children and young people can gain real experiences and have meaningful participation.
- Provide opportunities for young people to participate in community events where they can use their youth as a gift.
- Provide opportunities for good relationships with community spark plugs who are positive role models and can offer guidance and life experiences for exploring interests and future career options.
- Provide opportunities for young people to participate in community events where they can apply learned concepts to practical life situations.
- Provide opportunities for young people to build a self-image as a contributor to their community.
- Provide fun, educational, and cultural opportunities for parents and their children.
- For organizations that interact with young people (YMCA's, youth sports, etc.), understand what young people need to thrive at this age and employ adults who can be good role models for character development, self-esteem and self-confidence.
- Provide opportunities for young people to earn money through employment at local businesses.



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