

## 8 Years Old:



### ***Social and Emotional Development***

- Begins to form opinions about moral values and attitudes; declares things either right or wrong.
- Plays with two or three "best friends", most often of the same age and gender; also enjoys spending some time alone.
- Seems less critical of own performance but is easily frustrated and upset when unable to complete a task or when the product does not meet expectations.
- Understands and respects the fact that some children are more talented in certain areas such as drawing, sports, reading, art or music.
- Continues to blame others or makes up alibis to explain his or her own shortcomings or mistakes.
- Participates in team games and activities; group membership and peer acceptance are important.
- Enjoys talking on the telephone with friends and family
- Desires adult attention and recognition; enjoys performing for adults and challenging them in games.



### ***Growth and Physical Characteristics***

- Continues to gain 5-7 pounds per year; an eight-year-old weighs approximately 55-61 pounds. Girls typically weigh less than boys.
- Height increases are slow but steady, averaging 2.5 inches per year; girls are generally taller (46-49 inches) than boys (48-52 inches).
- Body shape takes on a more mature appearance; arms and legs grow longer, creating an image that is tall and lanky.
- Normal vision acuity is 20/20; periodic vision checks assure that children are able to see.
- Some girls may begin to develop breasts and pubic hair and experience menses.
- Mood swings may become more apparent as changes in hormonal activity occur.
- Overall state of health improves; experiences fewer illnesses.



### ***Motor Development***

- Enjoys vigorous activity; likes to dance, inline skate, swim, wrestle, ride bikes, play basketball, jump rope, and fly kites.
- Seeks out opportunities to participate in team activities and games such as soccer, baseball, and kickball.
- Exhibits significant improvement in agility, balance, speed, and strength.
- Copies words and numbers from a blackboard with increasing speed and accuracy; has good eye-hand coordination.
- Possesses seemingly endless energy.



## Speech and Language Development

- Delights in telling jokes and riddles.
- Understands and carries out multiple-step instructions (up to five steps); may need to have directions repeated because they did not listen to the entire request.
- Reads with ease and understanding.
- Composes and sends imaginative and detailed messages to friends and family via email, texting or webcam.
- Uses language to criticize and compliment others; repeats slang and curse words.
- Understands and follows rules of grammar in conversation and written form.
- Is intrigued with learning secret word codes and using code language.
- Converses fluently with adults; able to think and talk about past and future: "What time is my swim meet next week?" "Where did we go on vacation last summer?"



## Perceptual-Cognitive Development

- Collects objects; organizes and displays items according to more complex systems; bargains and trades with friends to obtain additional pieces.
- Saves money for small purchases; eagerly develops plans to earn cash from odd jobs; studies catalogues and magazines for ideas of items to purchase.
- Begins taking an interest in what others think and do; understands there are distant countries and differences of opinion and cultures.
- Accepts challenge and responsibility with enthusiasm; delights in being asked to perform tasks, both at home and in school; is interested in being rewarded for efforts.
- Likes to read and work independently; spends considerable time planning and making lists.
- Understands perspective (*shadow, distance, shape*); drawings reflect more realistic portrayal of objects.
- Grasps the basic principles of conservation. (A tall, narrow jar might look different from one that is short and wide but they both can hold the same amount of liquid).
- Uses more sophisticated logic to understand everyday events; for example, is systematic in looking for a misplaced jacket, backpack, or toy.
- Adds and subtracts multiple-digit numbers; learning multiplication and division.
- Looks forward to school and is disappointed when ill or unable to attend.



### References:

Marotz, L. & Allen K. (2013) *Developmental profiles: Pre-birth through adolescence* (Instructor's Edition). Belmont, CA:

Wadsworth, Cengage Learning.