

Development in Middle Childhood

Physical Development

Growth

Rates vary widely

Grow 3 inches and gain 5 to 8 pounds per year

Growth spurt at age 10 for girls, age 12 for boys

Nutrition

Good appetites

Need about 2,400 calories

Malnutrition

May affect cognitive skills, activity levels, and growth

Obesity

Genetic predisposition

Activity level

Eating habits

Television

Emotional effects

Increased risk of hypertension

Tooth development and dental care

Primary teeth come out about age 6

Permanent teeth erupt about 4 per year

Second molars at 13

Third molars in early 20's

Motor development

Faster and better coordinated

Boys play is more vigorous

Health and Fitness

Few major illnesses

Death rate is lowest

Heavier and less fit

Colds are most common illness

More asthmatics

Vision is keener

HIV requires special attention only with symptoms

Accidents are the leading cause of death

Cognitive Development

Concrete operations (ages 7-12)

Think logically and decenter

Conservation

Horizontal decalage

Classification

Seriation

Numerical relationships

Distinguish fantasy and reality
Piaget's Theory of Moral reasoning
Morality of constraint
Morality of cooperation

Memory
Improves significantly
Use mnemonic strategies
Rehearsal is more spontaneous
Information is better organized
Intelligence
Tests designed to assess capacity to learn
IQ scores are good predictors of achievement
Tests favor children with high verbal skills
May be culturally biased
Language
Use complex grammar
Vocabulary of several thousand words

Influences on school achievement
Positive behavior and effort
Sensitivity and aggression
Parental involvement
Intrinsic motivation
Parents' educational background
Socioeconomic status
Parental attitudes
Cultural values
Teachers' attitudes (self-fulfilling prophecy)
Focus of educational system
Special Educational Needs and Strengths
Mental retardation
Developmental disorder
Significantly lower intellectual functioning (IQ below 70)
Most can benefit from training
Attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD)
Symptoms include inattention, impulsivity, low tolerance for frustration, distractibility, inappropriate activity level
Genetic, neurological, biochemical and environmental factors
Usually treated with the stimulant Ritalin

Learning disabilities
Disorders that interfere with school achievement
Lower school performance

Dyslexia is most common type

Educating disabled children

IDEA requires a free appropriate education for disabled children

Gifted children

IQ scores of 130 or higher

Creativity

Ability to see things differently