

Child psychology

Elementary School Age

and You

belong to Christ

and Christ

belongs to God



Psychological needs of a child:

- Attachment to a caregiver
- Love
- Belonging
- Freedom
- Recognition
- Respect
- Protection
- Pleasure/Fun



Piaget's Stages of Cognitive Development

Typical Age Range	Description of Stage	Developmental Phenomena
Birth to nearly 2 years	<i>Sensorimotor</i> Experiencing the world through senses and actions (looking, touching, mouthing)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Object permanence •Stranger anxiety
About 2 to 6 years	<i>Preoperational</i> Representing things with words and images but lacking logical reasoning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Pretend play •Egocentrism •Language development
About 7 to 11 years	<i>Concrete operational</i> Thinking logically about concrete events; grasping concrete analogies and performing arithmetical operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Conservation •Mathematical transformations
About 12 through adulthood	<i>Formal operational</i> Abstract reasoning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Abstract logic •Potential for moral reasoning

Four Stages of Development

<p>SENSORIMOTOR STAGE</p> <p>The child begins to interact with the environment.</p>  <p>0-2</p>	<p>PREOPERATIONAL STAGE</p> <p>The child begins to represent the world symbolically.</p>  <p>2-6 or 7</p>
<p>CONCRETE OPERATIONAL STAGE</p> <p>The child learns rules such as conservation.</p>  <p>7-11 or 12</p>	<p>FORMAL OPERATIONAL STAGE</p> <p>The adolescent can transcend the concrete situation and think about the future.</p>  <p>12-Adulthood</p>

Social Development

Preschoolers:

As preschool the child can:

- Explore independently
- Express affection openly, though not always accurately
- Still show some stranger anxiety
- Perfect the temper tantrum
- Learn how to soothe themselves
- Be more aware of others' emotions
- Cooperate with other children
- Express fear or anxiety before an upcoming event (such as a doctor visit)



Social Development

School Age (KG-5th GR):

By 5 and older, a child's social development begins to reach new levels. This is a point in time when most children will spend more hours in a day with other children than with their parents. It is normal for them to:

- Thrive on friendships
- Want to please **friends**, as well as be more like their friends
- Begin to recognize power in relationships, as well as the larger community
- Recognize and fear bullies or display bully-like behavior themselves
- *As early as 10*, children may begin to *reject parents' opinion* of friends

and certain behaviors—this is a normal step, but can be especially frustrating for parents



Spiritual Growth age 3-5: *Respect*

Representation of God in preoperational stage

Teach your young children these truths:

- God is strong. He can do anything.
- God always keeps His promises.
- God gives us rules that we must obey.
- Even if Mommy or Daddy can't see what you are doing, God sees it.
- God disciplines us because He loves us.



Spiritual Growth For Early Elementary Years(5-9): *wisdom*

Wisdom is the ability to apply God's Word to life situations.

- The child must first learn **God's Word**:

Daily bible readings. At this age, children are *information sponges*

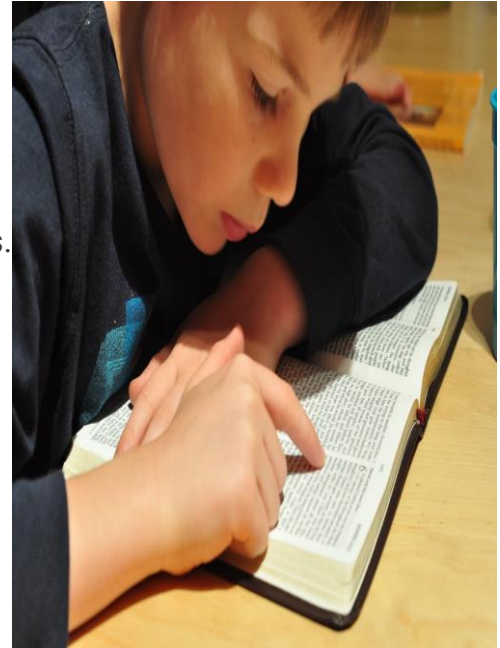
-The child must learn **the truth**:

kids will be bombarded throughout life by truth claims from the media, teachers and friends.

Truth and wisdom come from the Bible

-The child must learn who **Jesus** is:

He is The only Way.



Spiritual Marker For Late Elementary Years: *Grace*

The primary goal for 9- to 11-year-olds is to receive God's Grace.

-The majority of people who trust Christ as Savior do so before they are teens.

If children do not come to faith in Christ by the time they are teens, the likelihood begins to quickly decrease that they will do so.

-To understand your children's faith, ask questions:

"Can you explain why Jesus died on the Cross?" "What does someone have to do to go to heaven?" "Why do you think you are a Christian?" Responses such as "I prayed a prayer" or "The teacher told me I was a Christian" may indicate they are trusting in the wrong thing.

-Practice the church sacraments on a wider scale (hands on): Repentance -Confession-Communion -Unction of the sick.....

-Abstract vs concrete thinking

Great Sunday School Teacher

1) A heart for God

This is where all ministry begins, whether you are teaching Sunday School or leading the entire church. Our service should flow from – our deep, sincere, committed heart for God.

2) A love for people

Scripture teaches that the two greatest commands are to love God and to love . . . people (Mark 12:30-31). This means we are not only committed to the lesson, but to actually understanding and building relationships with the people we are teaching.

3) A passion for God's Word

As a Sunday School teacher, it's our responsibility to dig in to God's Word not just to teach our lesson, but to understand it fully and allow it to permeate every part of our life. As we do this, every element of our teaching becomes based on and saturated in the Word.

Great Sunday School Teacher

4) A habit of praying

Oswald Chambers, author of My Utmost For His Highest, said “Prayer does not equip us for greater works, prayer *is* the greater work.” A great Sunday School teacher knows that it is the power of God that brings about transformation, so a deep dependence on God, exhibited through the habit of praying, is essential for a great Sunday School teacher.

5) A commitment to personal growth

Any great teacher is only a great teacher as long as they continue to grow. To grow mentally, physically, spiritually and socially.

6) An ability to teach

Some people have the gift of teaching.

7) A willingness to prepare

It really doesn't matter if you have an ability to teach if you're not willing to prepare. Sure, great teachers can “wing it” in a pinch, but they know that that's not the way to be effective. Preparation takes time and effort, and great Sunday School teachers are willing to give both.

8) A dedication to the people they teach

Visitation -phone calls -follow ups -know the family

Heart of a Servant

Give me the heart of a servant,
Tender and faithful and true.

Fill me with love, then use me, O Lord,
So that the world can see You.