

Developmental Milestones for Sixth Grade Ages 11-12

Information from Responsive Classroom Website:

<https://www.responsiveclassroom.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/Yardsticks-for-Elementary-School.pdf>

Common Developmental Traits by Age

(Adapted from *Yardsticks: Children in the Classroom Ages 4–14*, 3rd edition, by Chip Wood, CRS, 2007)

Age	Physical	Language/Cognitive	Social/Emotional
11	Restless, very energetic Need lots of food, physical activity, sleep Growth spurts	Like “adult” tasks, such as re-searching Enjoy brain teasers and puzzles Want to learn new things more than review previous work Challenge assumptions—their own and those of adults Able to think abstractly and understand ideas	Common age for cliques and pairs Peer focused; need to save face with peers Moody; self-absorbed Sensitive about changing bodies Like to challenge rules, test limits
12	Need lots of food, physical activity, sleep Growth spurts	May begin to excel at a subject or skill More sophisticated sense of humor Enthusiastic about purposeful schoolwork; can set goals and concentrate Interested in civics, social justice	Peers more important than adults Question and argue with adults Like both group and individual work Need rituals to mark turning points Can be self-aware, insightful, empathic Can take on major responsibilities