

Social & Emotional Developmental Milestones

The following are general developmental milestones that often happen at the specified ages. In reality, children will reach these milestones at a variety of ages. While developmental milestone guides for early childhood are prevalent, this information is less accessible for middle childhood in Aotearoa.

Developmental Domain

AGES 5, 6, 7, 8

AGES 9, 10, 11, 12

Developmental Domain	AGES 5, 6, 7, 8	AGES 9, 10, 11, 12
Generalisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beginning of formal education • “5-7 Shift” - the increased ability to reason 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active contributors to family life • Transition from early to middle childhood
Hormonal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Onset of adrenarche 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Onset of puberty
Cognitive development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grouping information and make links between groups e.g. sorting animals into groups based on physical attributes • Apply reasoning in more and more complex ways in relation to the physical and social world • Begin to learn and gain independence in reading, writing and numeracy • Begin to connect actions with their consequences • Can draw in 2D and increasingly in 3D • Curious about how things work and able to seek out, interpret and discuss information 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Begin to connect actions with their consequences • Make plans and set goals • Can think about the meaning of information they hear or read • Gain understanding of complex forms of false-belief around 7-8 years (e.g. such as that another person might believe something untrue about another person or thing) • Can understand and give directions • Gain understanding of time e.g. tomorrow/ yesterday/this afternoon
Moral development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Form views about right and wrong • Consider rules to be fairly concrete 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Value and typically follow rules
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Tweens” or “Pre-teens” • Transition from childhood to early adolescence
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased reliance on peers • Increased independence from family
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learn to tell time • Able to think more logically and abstractly and express thoughts and ideas • Ability to generalise, problem-solve and reason increases • Testing of assumptions and ideas
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Able to analyse risks • Able to read and write independently, and apply mathematical skills in real world situations • Better able to think of the consequences of an action or situation, and be better prepared to respond
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Able to think more abstractly about morality • Understand that rules exist, but also that they can be flexible