

## Developmental Domain (cont.)

AGES 5, 6, 7, 8

AGES 9, 10, 11, 12

Attention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Attention and cognition improve due to maturing of the prefrontal cortex</li> <li>Can focus attention on something and ignore irrelevant information or events happening around them</li> <li>Different aspects of attention (alertness, set, spatial attention, sustained attention and interference control) develop between 6 years and 9 years</li> <li>Impulsivity considered a normal for this age group</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Attention functions mature around 12 years</li> <li>Focus increases between ages 8-12</li> </ul>
Friendship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>May seek a "best friend"</li> <li>Children tend to form friendships with children of the same gender</li> <li>Children are developing friendships based on shared interests</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Friendships grow in importance</li> <li>Friendship groups become more mix gendered again</li> <li>Seeking greater independence from family</li> </ul>
Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify and recognise other people's emotions based on body language and vocal cues</li> <li>Begin to understand different viewpoints and consider others' feelings and perspectives</li> <li>Develop awareness of feeling embarrassed</li> <li>Increased sense of empathy</li> <li>Enjoy role play and being dramatic</li> <li>Enjoy playing games and participating in group activities</li> <li>Develop their own games, rules and competitiveness</li> <li>Social hierarchies emerge</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hierarchies/popularity beginning to form, and gain in importance</li> <li>Greater communication skills enable increased cooperation with others and ability to handle conflict</li> <li>Able to feel multiple and conflicting emotions about the same person, e.g. can be angry at someone they care about</li> <li>Learning self-control for their emotions, and closeness and distance within relationships</li> <li>May experience greater sense of awkwardness as they navigate social norms in relation to increased peer influences and pressure</li> <li>Prefer to play with others than alone</li> <li>Developing ability to manage own emotional expressions in relationships, and increase in competitiveness, joking and aggression</li> </ul>
Gender	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stereotypical gender roles reflected in children's play (e.g. nurturing games, playfighting)</li> <li>More likely to play with peers of the same gender</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>May become more interested in socialising with children of other gender</li> <li>May question gender identity, or identify with a gender that does not align with sex identified at birth</li> </ul>