

PRETEENS

Spiritual

- have concepts of love and trust
- have formed concepts of personal worth
- feel deeply about own experiences; can be sensitive to others
- beginning to adopt a religious belief system of their own
- are ready for spiritual answers and directions
- are developing a conscience and a value system
- can make many choices, but may not follow through on long-term commitments

Social/Emotional

- are motivated most by own interest and think of self, using own experiences
- are aware of sex roles; have changing attitudes toward the opposite sex
- can accept rules, organizations, responsibilities, and leader-follower roles
- can operate comfortably within a group
- have deep need for companionship and approval of peers
- like to win and improve on achievements
- like acceptance and encouragement; can become easily discouraged
- recognize and appreciate individual differences
- are ready for responsibilities and opportunities for self-direction
- are easily influenced emotionally and can cope with some feelings

Mental

- are beginning to think abstractly
- are capable of deep thoughts
- are imaginative, creative, and curious
- can distinguish between fact and fiction
- have developed basic reading and writing skills
- can accept and work toward short-term goals
- can cope with success and failure
- can concentrate when interested
- think quickly and memorize easily
- can discern time and space relationships
- can express ideas, understand cause and effect, solve problems, and plan

Physical

- like to use abundant energy and physical skills
- are approaching puberty; girls are usually ahead of boys
- have good coordination and muscle skills

