

participate, and special ceremonies should recognize all participants, not just individuals who excel in sports or athletics.

Acquisition of Skills

School-age children demonstrate increasing fine motor abilities and complex artistic skills. Handedness is well established by the beginning of the school years, and children make great strides in writing and drawing during this period. It is a time of energetic and vibrant creative productivity. With the tools of language and reading, children create poems, stories, and plays. With more advanced fine motor skills, they are able to master an unlimited variety of handicrafts, such as ceramics, needlework, woodworking, and beadwork. They avidly pursue these skills in solitude, with a friend, or through organized groups such as boys' or girls' clubs or special interest groups that use crafts or other activities as a means to occupy, entertain, and educate children.

School-age children are capable of assuming responsibility for their own needs, although their distaste for soap and water and “dress” clothes is legendary. School-age children can and want to assume their share of household tasks, which usually are related to the male and female roles that have been defined by their culture. Many children also assume responsibility for tasks outside the home, such as babysitting, yard work, or paper routes.

Television, Video Games, and the Internet

Children spend a significant amount of time each day involved in media-related activities, including the use of tablets, video games, and cell phones. Children 8 to 10 years old spend at least 8 hours every day with various forms of media, and teenagers spend more than 11 hours per day ([American Academy of Pediatrics, Council on Communications and Media, 2013](#)). Because of the long periods of exposure, media has more time to develop children's attitudes than do parents and teachers.

There is no doubt that children learn from various forms of media, but the values and attitudes depicted on these forums are not always realistic and may conflict with previously taught values. Violence is common in various forms of media, and significant exposure to media violence increases aggressive behavior in some