

STAGES OF CHILD DEVELOPMENT

Note: This needs to be re-branded for Curaçao



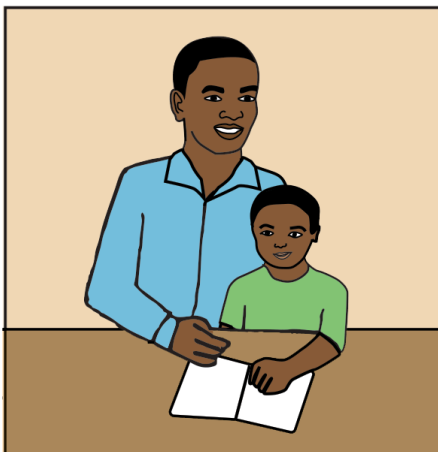
Infant (0–1 year)

- Food, sleep, cleaning, comfort and safety.
- Strong attachment (bonding) with parent/ caregiver.
- Stimulation and attention.
- 0–6 months: Will smile, babble and cry to attract the caregiver's attention. Caregivers should provide care, cuddling, caressing and protection.
- 6–11 months: Will cling to the parent/ caregiver, especially when feeling insecure or frightened. Will protest the caregiver's departure. Follows the caregiver when able.



Toddler (2–3 years)

- Same as infant (0 -1 years)
- but also...
- 12–23 months: Begins to walk and talk; will explore his or her surroundings.
- Becomes more curious; wants to explore and become more independent.
- Wants to learn how to do new things (e.g. dress and undress) and wants to make own decisions.
- Seeks praise, approval.
- Becomes more independent and continues to explore his or her surroundings.
- Starts speaking sentences and building vocabulary.
- Does not like to lose or take turns, but sharing can be taught.
- May express feelings in dramatic ways. Can begin to learn how to manage emotions.



Early Childhood (4–7 years)

- Same as infant (0 -1 years)
- but also...
- Learns through actions; play. Develops relationships with other children. (Play is important and can teach social values.)
- Has questions; seeks answers.
- Finds it difficult to separate fantasy from reality. Expresses feelings in dramatic ways.
- May talk a lot; ask many questions. Answers can be short but should be honest. The child may ask again if not clear or if she or he wants more information.
- Does not like to lose, share or take turns, but losing and taking turns can be taught.



Middle Childhood (8–12 years)

- Same as young childhood (4-7 years)
- but also...
- Interested in learning in school.
- Starts to want independence and trust.
- Wants to spend time with other children.
- May express interest in religious matters, spirituality.
- May answer back to adults to show that they “know”.
- Can be very self-conscious and sensitive. May be very active. (The child’s unique temperament emerges clearly at this stage.) But can learn to better manage anger and tolerate frustration.



Early adolescence (10-12/14 years)

- Continue providing love, support, guidance and building a strong parent-child connection.
- Beginning to challenge adult rules
- Often insecure and confused.
- Feelings get hurt easily and have mood swings
- Try to be the boss and are unhappy if they lose.
- Peers are important and influential
- Needs:
- some freedom but consistency in rules
- affection, support, self-esteem, encouragement to believe in their abilities



Later adolescence (15 – 19 years)

- Your child is almost an adult, he/she able to communicate with you about almost anything.
- He/she can think about new ideas, develop their own ideals, and set their own course.
- They are forming their own identity and have a growing sense of their sexuality
- They may prefer being with peers more than with parents/caregivers
- They may show risk-taking behaviours, frequent mood swings, and rebellious attitudes
- The most important things that parents/caregivers can do in this stage are:
 - o Continue providing love, support and guidance and build a strong parent-child connection
 - o Monitor the child's activities
 - o Nurture the child's independence
 - o Encourage child to begin to take responsibility for the future

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