

Nine Year-Olds

- Self motivation is the dominant characteristic of the nine year-old.
- He likes to perfect his skill and will do things over and over in order to become perfect at a skill.
- The nine year-old likes to plan in advance and be told the steps that he should follow in order to do something.
- He often is not very motivated by allowances or money.
- The nine year-old is relatively well-organized and likes to assess himself and others.
- He can be very accurate in his estimates of other people so do not try to fool a nine year-old.
- The nine year-old can accept blame if he is at fault.
- The nine year-old is speedy like the eight year-old but his speed is under control and less noticeable.
- He is persistent and likes to complete what he plans. He can tolerate interruptions, however.
- Nine year-olds are loyal and devoted friends. They stand by their friends. Usually they tend to have one special friend.
- Many nine year-olds love to read. They may even get up early in the morning in order to have time to read.
- Children this age like school but have difficulty remembering to take to school the things that are needed for a special project or activity.
- One of the favorite complaints of the nine year-old is that he doesn't have a good memory.

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• At this age, he may not only prefer to read silently but he may even hate to read in front of the class.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nine year-olds like to order things by mail and to write business letters.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nine year-olds either love or hate math.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nine year-olds often have good intentions but may fail to carry them out.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nine year-olds sometimes have annoying habits such as rotating a leg, crossing ankle to knee, jiggling leg, humming, singing, whistling, blowing.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The nine year-old wants to succeed.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The nine year-old often thinks his teacher is wonderful or awful.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• He wants the teacher to be reasonable.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Boys shout and girls whisper and giggle.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Children of this age have an increasing interest in magazines.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The nine year-old needs to know his own progress and to be given individual assistance apart from the class.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The nine year-old can use a dictionary easily.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Usually the nine year-old prefers cursive writing to manuscript.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The nine year-old is less concerned with good and bad and more concerned with right and wrong than younger children.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Children at this age may return to incorrect grammatical usage.

Ten Year-Olds

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The ten year-old is well-balanced, content, and comfortable.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• He can take things in stride.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The ten year-old can do two things at once with ease. For example, he can talk and work at the same time.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ten year-olds often love food and eat lots of it.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Most are extremely careless about clothing.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Headaches and stomachaches are common tensional outlets.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• They can be revengeful and like to get even when they feel they have been wronged.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ten year-olds are generally easy-going and matter of fact.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Often boys especially like to use bad words and tell dirty jokes-- often related to elimination.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Children at this age often have poor posture, especially when eating.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• At this age, children may pay more attention to teacher than to parents.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Children who are ten tend to appreciate firmness.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ten year-olds can be quite disdainful of outgrown activities.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• By this age there is much variation in reading behavior and tastes.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Few ten year-olds read magazines.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Things that annoy ten year-olds about their teachers are that they talk too much, give no time for questions, or show favoritism.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• They don't like to be picked or nagged at. This means that teachers should be careful in what they choose to criticize. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ten year-olds cannot plan their own work and need schedules. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fairness is very important to the ten year-old. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ten year-olds feel they are never at fault. They try to assign blame to someone else. |

CLOSING THOUGHTS

These age characteristics are not included for you to memorize or even be overly concerned about. They are listed so that you can have some sense of what is typical and what is not, when to make an issue of something and when to ignore and proceed. For example, if you are dealing with a ten year-old who constantly blames others for everything that happens, you will probably waste your time if you try to reform him. What he is doing is in the nature of the ten year-old. He will outgrow that behavior and reach another developmental stage soon. It is something that will take care of itself and you need not be worried about it.

Other items have been included so you will have some sense of what might be successful with your particular child. For example, ten year-olds are not usually fond of magazines but have varied reading interests. Therefore, find what they like and find reading material that fits. Don't be determined that they will like *Sports Illustrated for Kids* because they are likely not to.

One thing you should keep in mind is that because some of your students may be slow intellectually, they may also be behind developmentally. Therefore, a nine-old that you have may behave more like an eight year-old.

These are generalizations and all children may not fit. They are merely presented as guidelines for your reference.

Any subject can be taught effectively in some intellectually honest form to any child at any stage of development.

--Jerome Seymour Bruner
