

# Children's Characteristics

## ***Physically children are:***

- active learners. They utilize their senses and may appear restless.
- becoming more coordinated. They are increasing proficiency in utilizing fine motor skills.
- developing at different rates. They do not all have the same skills and abilities.

## ***Intellectually children are:***

- concrete thinkers. They think in terms of real-life experiences.
- naturally curious and becoming independent thinkers. They enjoy a variety of learning activities.
- creative in their ideas and plans. They enjoy group decision-making.

## ***Socially children are:***

- aware of the difference between right and wrong. They are sensitive to fairness and honesty.
- becoming more aware of their peers and what others think. They crave genuine affirmation.
- understanding rules and consequences. They desire appropriate guidelines for behavior.

## ***Emotionally children are:***

- seeking love and affirmation. They need you to love them for who they are.
- anxious in large groups of unknown people. They express feelings openly and are embarrassed easily.
- growing aware of their strengths and weaknesses.

## ***Spiritually children are:***

- modeling the adult examples they see. They model the attitude, prayer and worship of others.
- acquiring biblical knowledge, skills and principles. They relate their knowledge to daily life.
- increasingly capable of making commitments. They are learning to trust Christ and talk to God about their feelings.

## ***Application***

- Change activities and offer balanced times of play and rest.
- Plan activities that use gross motor skills such as games and fine motor skills such as crafts.
- Be sensitive with your remarks and attitudes.

## ***Application***

- Keep activities challenging and relevant to their lives.
- Implement multiple learning styles in your lesson.
- Form groups and let children discuss ideas presented in the Bible study.

## ***Application***

- Model appropriate ways to apply these concepts through your actions.
- Be specific in your praise and encouragement.
- Be firm and loving as you address behaviors.

## ***Application***

- Recognize individual gifts and talents.
- Value everyone's suggestions and thoughts.
- Allow them to make choices and do tasks independently.

## ***Application***

- Model Christian attitudes and actions.
- Allow children to respond and participate actively in Bible study.
- Listen to their questions, encourage them to read the Bible for answers.
- Be a Christian mentor.