

# STAGES OF DEVELOPMENT

Children develop at different times and in different ways. They are affected by external influences, experiences and personal choices which can significantly impact their development. This outline provides generalisations to help inform your teaching.

Stage	Characteristics
<b>Explorers</b> Ages 4 - 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Short attention span (estimate 1 minute for every year of age)</li> <li>● Concrete thinking and literal understanding, usually confined to their own realm of experiences</li> <li>● Limited reasoning skills</li> <li>● Difficulty in distinguishing between fantasy and reality</li> <li>● Mainly learn through their senses, imitation and play</li> <li>● Little awareness of time and space - more interested in the present</li> <li>● Learning how to socialise, sort and classify</li> <li>● Thinks everyone thinks like me</li> </ul>
<b>Adventurers</b> Ages 6 - 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Short attention span (estimate 1 minute for every year of age)</li> <li>● Concrete thinking</li> <li>● Beginning to ask 'Why?' and identify consequences for actions</li> <li>● Learn through their senses and by doing</li> <li>● Learning to tell the time and starting to think about the future</li> <li>● Beginning to understand another's point of view</li> <li>● Beginning to ask 'Why?' and identify consequences for actions</li> <li>● Beginning to read</li> <li>● Learning to share and take turns</li> <li>● Developing friendships and a sense of belonging</li> <li>● Enjoys humour</li> </ul>
<b>Navigators</b> Ages 8 - 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Longer attention span, developing memory skills</li> <li>● Concrete thinking</li> <li>● Can begin to reason</li> <li>● Beginning to grasp fact and fiction</li> <li>● Better understanding of the relationship between cause and effect and how their actions affect others</li> <li>● A growing capacity to take the perspective of others</li> <li>● Developing close friendships</li> <li>● Has a strong sense of what's fair</li> </ul>
<b>Voyagers</b> Ages 10 - 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Longer attention span, able to remember large amounts of information</li> <li>● Beginning to be able to think in the abstract and critically</li> <li>● Developing and testing values and beliefs - Do I believe this? Do others believe this? What do I want to do about it?</li> <li>● Gaining more independence and increased responsibility</li> <li>● Can be self-conscious and easily embarrassed</li> <li>● Developing social conscience</li> <li>● Want to express belief in action</li> <li>● Peer group is influential and starts to replace adults</li> </ul>

