

## Watch Me Grow Series Characteristics

### Physical Development

- Nine-year olds play and work harder, are likely to overdo
- General health tends to be good
- Physical strength improves in both girls and boys
- Both boys and girls are extremely restless
- Posture may be awkward and slouchy
- Appetite is usually enormous
- Both boys and girls are careless about clothes and cleanliness
- At about eleven, most girls begin to develop secondary sex characteristics
- Not unusual for boys and girls to revert to infantile habits such as nail-biting or bed wetting

### Mental Development

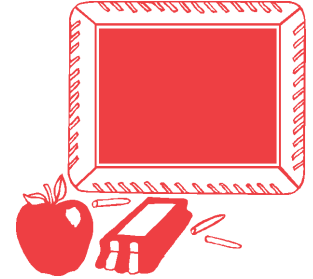
- Become self-critical at about nine and soon thereafter become critical of others
- Musically-minded children begin to take a real interest in music
- Begin to use language as a tool
- Become less absorbed in fantasy, more in realistic stories
- Are fascinated by transportation, especially aviation
- Learn many vital things through experience
- Have more purpose in their thinking and planning
- Begin to organize information acquired
- Concentrate better
- Increased desire to memorize causes memory to improve

### Social And Emotional Development

- Some girls wish they were boys and behave as much like them as possible
- Both boys and girls like group adventure and excitement
- Often form deep attachments to some other child of the same age and sex
- Tend to choose children whom their parents disapprove of as their closest friends
- Both boys and girls admire achievement and winners
- Most seem to enjoy the distress they are causing
- Most refuse to admit to or discuss having problems
- Are likely to be ungrateful, unappreciative, suspicious and irritable
- Are easily offended
- Are fascinated by vulgarity and vulgar language
- May be shameless about some things, overly modest about others
- Very seldom cry in public
- Would be very embarrassed to show affection publicly
- May lose a good deal of self-control

### Moral And Spiritual Development

- Are usually fair and want to be truthful, dependable, trustworthy
- Often fail to live up to their own standards and do not recognize why
- Conscience and self-criticism are strong, but not articulated
- Ten or eleven year olds lose interest in church, question their own beliefs and those of others
- Are usually sorry after bad behavior but may not admit it
- Gain in courage, independence and teamwork



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