

ELEVEN YEAR VISIT

DEVELOPMENT

1. Your child is now in the late elementary school/early middle school age group. Success in school is very important to your child. Parents must help their children achieve success by closely monitoring their social and academic progress by talking with their teachers. Praise your child for doing things well in school. If your child is not performing at grade level, or is not making satisfactory academic progress, you should ask the school for a comprehensive (CORE) evaluation. You must be willing to intervene on your child's behalf. Do not be intimidated by the school authorities. Please bring any school problems your child may have to the attention of your child's physician.
2. Although the acquisition of computer skills may be beneficial for your child, excessive computer use reduces the time available for children to play and to develop other skills, such as reading. Limit TV or computer use to 2 hours per day.
3. Set a routine and make a quiet place for doing homework.
4. Extracurricular activities, such as sports, music, dance and the arts, help children develop competence and confidence. Avoid over scheduling. Children need time to play without adult supervision. Activities should be fun, not stressful. Show interest in your child's school activities.
5. Many pre-teens are now entering puberty, or early adolescence. The biological difference between childhood and adulthood is the ability to conceive children. Your child's body is now undergoing the physical changes necessary to perform this function. Parents should discuss these changes with their adolescents and provide appropriate reading material, if necessary. It is the parents' responsibility to provide sex education.
6. In general, girls mature earlier than boys. Early signs of sexual maturation are breast development and the development of axillary and pubic hair. Menstrual periods usually begin 2-3 years after breast development starts, at an average age of 12.5 years. Boys mature on average 2 years later than girls do. Early signs of sexual maturation include enlargement of the genitalia and the development of pubic hair. Some boys will also develop breast enlargement; this is normal and usually resolves within 2 years. Remember, children reach puberty at different ages.
7. At this age, children are spending more time away from home. Get to know your child's friends and their families. Know where and with whom your child is. Set an appropriate curfew time.
8. Consider initiating a chore/allowance system to teach your child the value of time, money and work ethic.
9. Encourage your child to think through problems him/herself with your support.
10. Help your child figure out healthy ways to deal with stress.
11. Please complete the Pediatric Symptom Checklist (PSC) to help us monitor your child's psychosocial development.

DIET

1. Eating habits developed during childhood persist into adulthood.
2. A balanced diet should be offered to your child.
3. Eat together as a family as often as possible.
4. It is recommended that no more than 30% of calories be derived from fat.
5. Avoid sweets and other junk foods.
6. Vitamin supplements are not needed at this age. Fluoride supplements may be prescribed if your water is not fluoridated.

SAFETY

1. Accident prevention is critical at this age.
2. Children should be restrained with an adult seat belt in the back seat of the car.

3. Your child should never cross the street without a grown-up, never play near or in the street, and always stop and look both ways before crossing the street.
4. Children should never swim or enter the water without parental permission and supervision, never swim where water moves fast, never dive except from an official board and always wear a personal flotation device when in a boat. All children should be taught how to swim.
5. Children should never play with matches, lighters, fireworks, firecrackers or guns.
6. If there is a gun in your home, store it unloaded and locked with the ammunition locked separately. Ask if there are guns in homes where your child plays. If so, make sure they are stored safely.
7. Protect your home with smoke and carbon monoxide detectors and teach your children what to do when the alarm goes off. Teach your child when and how to call 911.
8. If your child is riding a bicycle, skate board, scooter, roller blades or horse, ice skating, skiing, or snowboarding, insist on helmet use and other safety gear as appropriate.
9. Poison Control Center telephone 1-800-222-1222.
10. Cigarette smoking causes cancer. Do not expose your child to this toxin.
11. Use sun block during the appropriate times of the year.
12. Perform a full body tick check each night before bed.
13. Protect against mosquito bites. Use insect repellent sparingly.
14. Teach your child how to be safe with other adults. Make a plan for situations in which your child doesn't feel safe.
15. Make sure your child knows how you feel about smoking and drug and alcohol use.

DISCIPLINE

1. As children become more mature and are able to accept responsibility, they should be given more freedom and their limits should be increased as the parents believe is appropriate. The parents, however, must always remain in control.
2. Children will pressure their parents to get them what "all the other kids have". Parents who give in to this demand now, will find it more difficult later to convince their children not to follow the crowd in important matters such as alcohol and drug use. Teach your child to be a leader, not a follower. Teach your child to help others.
3. Both parents must agree on method of discipline. Parents and caregivers must be consistent. Reward desired behavior. Do not reward undesired behavior.
4. Self-image is important. You may disapprove of what your child does, but never disapprove of your child.
5. Be a role model for healthy behavior choices.
6. Show your child how to use talk to share feelings and handle disputes.

SLEEP

1. Select an appropriate bedtime. All children do not become tired at the same time. If your child is stalling at bedtime, be firm. Do not allow your child to manipulate you. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends 9-12 hours of sleep per night at this age.
2. Do not place a TV in your child's bedroom.

LAB TESTS

1. The American Academy of Pediatrics has recommended that all children be screened for hyperlipidemia once between the ages of nine and eleven years. Please discuss this recommendation with your physician.

IMMUNIZATIONS

Today your child may receive:

- A. Tdap (Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis)
- B. Menactra (Meningococcal Disease)
- C. Gardasil (Human Papilloma Virus, HPV). If this vaccine is initiated prior to age 15 years, 2 doses are required; if initiated after age 15 years, 3 doses are required.
- D. Influenza, if available.

NEXT VISIT: At age 12 years.

Parent or guardian must accompany child at all visits.

Copies of this and all Handouts may be found on our website at www.tri-countypediatrics.com