

THE MIDDLE SCHOOL YEARS

AGE	STAGE	WHAT YOUR CHILD MAY EXPERIENCE
13	The Baby Stage	Thirteen-year-olds experience increased child-like neediness (p. 85). Many things they previously understood very easily turn into unsolvable mysteries. Cause and effect no longer seem to exist. And they may go through times when they literally no longer understand, no longer remember, no longer have a sense of the previous week, day, hour, or even minute (p. 87).
14	The Dissenter Stage	(They) are reworking the two-year-old period. This is why so much of what they do seems so like the behavior of an angry toddler (p. 107). At the end of this stage, young people are considerably more at peace...by the time they get to fifteen, they can think fairly clearly, plan well, and act appropriately even when they feel passionate about things (p. 104).

THE HIGH SCHOOL YEARS

AGE	STAGE	WHAT YOUR CHILD MAY EXPERIENCE
15	The Fledgling Stage	This is one stage that most parents enjoy. It signals an end to the struggles, and it is a period of learning and curiosity about the world... Many aspects of this stage involve bonding with the adult world: fifteen-year-olds are ripe for this and our job is to ensure that we and other adults are available so they can bond with us (p. 123.)
16	The Sweet and Sour Stage	Sixteen-year-olds start to challenge again, at home particularly. Through much of the year, they struggle with taking personal responsibility for themselves. With our persistence, they gradually soften and come to terms with their actual capacities and responsibilities. Our part is to learn to act with more detachment (p. 143).
17	The Romantic Stage	Exercising responsibility for themselves is central. They organize themselves, make plans, and follow through on them, are increasingly considerate and sensitive to others, and fulfill their household and other duties. As they do, they learn the benefits and the consequences of taking personal responsibility. The increased autonomy of our seventeen-year-olds results in many wonderful ways of having fun. This is often a happy time, so many options open up naturally (pp. 164-165).
18+	The World Leader Stage	A desire to contribute to the world is very important. They generally do want to make a difference. They are understandably preoccupied with the practicalities of finishing school or getting on at work. Parents may now seem somewhat irrelevant emotionally as these young people start to commit to other people outside the family. Continuing as friendly consultants works particularly well if we cultivate respect for their privacy and their interests (p183).