

A Child's Development Stages

Infants

_____ **Stage:**

- Infants' needs are met by forming an attachment to their parents.
- Infants cannot understand spiritual concepts but can be influenced by the overall spiritual atmosphere within the home.

Parent's Goals:

- To help your child feel secure with tender caressing and cuddling
- To provide a spiritual atmosphere by praying over your child and filling your home with Christian music

Toddlers

_____ **Stage:**

- Toddlers are intensely curious, unaware of danger, and eager to explore their world.
- Toddlers begin to separate from parents by being independent and saying no.

Parent's Goals:

- To encourage your child's curiosity in a protected environment instead of being annoyed or harsh
- To support your child's separation by not overreacting, but soft and consistent

Preschoolers

_____ **Stage:**

- Preschoolers push against the rules to test the limits.
- Preschoolers begin to be deceitful, realizing that their parents are not omniscient and can't read their minds.

Parent's Goals:

- To establish structure, set limits, and hold the line with love
- To reflect the compassion of God while correcting your child

Elementary School Children

_____ **for** _____ **Stage:**

- Children seek acceptance from different groups through performing various activities and roles.
- Children want to please parents and teachers, and they adopt their parents' morals, whether good or bad.

Parent's Goals:

- To reflect acceptance—enabling your child to see their God-given worth
- Shine the love of God in their lives. Encourage, compliment, express positive thoughts

Teenagers

_____ **Stage:**

- Teens seek to define their own set of values rather than mindlessly parroting their parents.
- Teens are idealistic and begin to search for their purpose for living.

Parent's Goals:

- To increase your teen's exposure to godly role models (pastor, youth leaders/ youth camp counselors, biographies of Christian leaders)
- To reflect the character of God; explaining that God's purpose is that you both become more and more like Christ.