

What's Going on With My 10th Grader?

The 10th grader can drive a car, work a job, and is getting dangerously close to adulthood. Here is a look at what is going on inside the mind and heart of your 10th grader.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

- ◆ There is a heightened sensitivity to appearance and its social value.
- ◆ Boys and girls have a propensity to diet.
- ◆ Girls have developed physically into their adult bodies.
- ◆ Boys have mostly developed into their adult bodies. There might be a little growth left.
- ◆ Sexual desire is awakened, and the temptation to be sexually active is common.

EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The 10th grader may:

- ◆ Have a desire for more control over aspects of their life
- ◆ Test authority and question rules
- ◆ Love to try new things in an effort to discover identity
- ◆ Exhibit impulsive behavior with friends and peers
- ◆ Not respond to adult lectures, feeling they know better what is going on than the adult does
- ◆ Be more capable of taking care of others

RELATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- ◆ Integrating both physical and emotional intimacy into relationships begins.

- ◆ Friends that share beliefs, values, and interests are sought.
- ◆ Less time may be spent with family, while more time may be spent with peers.
- ◆ Peers influence them to try risky behaviors, such as experimenting with alcohol, tobacco, etc.
- ◆ Competition with outside groups is preferred over competition with friends.
- ◆ Relationships with parents become focused on a negotiation to get what they want.
- ◆ There is a strong desire for conformity with peers.
- ◆ Girls have a tendency to be interested in older boys.
- ◆ Popular peers, adults, and celebrities are strong influences.

SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

- ◆ They can handle the responsibility of most service positions in the church.
- ◆ They have a greater interest in serving others and in making a difference in the world.
- ◆ There is more planning and preparation for the future.
- ◆ They have a greater ability to identify right and wrong.
- ◆ Role models are developed that inspire them either toward or away from faith.
- ◆ Their capacity for self-discipline increases.
- ◆ Summer camps and mission experiences influence them spiritually because of the peer connections that those events create.
- ◆ They begin to imagine what life would be like as an adult away from their parents, and they begin deciding whether or not their faith will be a part of that.
- ◆ There is a temptation to "have their fun now" and be responsible later.