

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.