

What's Going on With My 11th Grader?

By the time your teenager reaches the 11th grade year, they are living like a mini-adult. But they still need your guidance. To help you with that, here is a look at what is happening in the world of your 11th grader.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

- ◆ Boys and girls have fully developed physically into their adult bodies.
- ◆ Sexual desire is awakened, and the temptation to be sexually active is common.
- ◆ Stress is a very real physical struggle as they work, perform in school, and prepare for the future.

EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The 11th grader may:

- ◆ Begin to be very sentimental as they anticipate life change
- ◆ Experience calmer moods than in previous years
- ◆ Have a desire for more control over aspects of their life
- ◆ 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.
- ♦ The relationship with parents is more of a support system.
- ♦ They begin to feel freedom to express themselves as individuals.

SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

- ♦ In regards to faith, they value the annual traditions of their student ministry, church, and family.
- ♦ 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.
- ♦ Role models are developed that inspire them either toward or away from faith.
- ♦ Their capacity for self-discipline increases.
- ♦ 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.