

What's Special About Me at this Age?



Character Building

- I am learning to always do my best and to never give up, even when something is hard.
- I need encouragement to practice what I like and am good at. I also need encouragement to try new things.
- Set high expectations for me! Expect good behavior and skills development. Support me to meet your expectations.



Communication

- I am starting to understand what my parents and others have taught me about values and expectations. I am applying the principles you've taught me so far. I see how they connect with my life.
- I am learning to cooperate. I am learning to seek solutions with others. I need to communicate well so I can do this.



Skill Building

- I am very energetic. I need to be active! Being active helps me develop my skills.
- I need time to practice my skills. I need lots of encouragement to do this.
- I am learning to be a team member. Encourage me to cooperate and get consensus in a group.

Applying Inuit Values

Observation



Definition

Observation is the core of Inuit learning and success. In the picture, the owl represents the power of clear sight, observation, and focus. Owls watch prey intensely. They grasp prey with their sharp talons and do not let go. We develop skills through keen observation. To observe well, we need to analyze and evaluate what we see. This leads us to new ways of thinking and gives us insight into situations.

Process

At around nine-years old, children are expected to be keen observers. Give children tasks such as watching the cooking pot. This is an opportunity to observe how much wood is needed to feed the fire without wasting any and how long it takes the water to boil. Such tasks help the family and they provide many learning opportunities for children.

Reminders

- ✓ As children become more social, they visit other homes and are exposed to germs. Remind them to wash their hands often.

Inunnguiniq

Childrearing Advice from Inuit Elders

9 Years



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CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE FOR CHILDREN'S WELL-BEING

Children and Adolescents with Special Needs

About this Age

At this age, children are concerned about their identity, their namesake, and their reputation. They are aware of their accomplishments. They want you to notice their abilities. This is a time to celebrate first hunts and other successes with the larger community and with namesakes.

At this age, children are very observant. They listen to everything, even talk that is beyond their understanding. They ask many questions. They also make comments about what they see and hear. Their comments might embarrass you, they are trying to understand the world and people around them.

Nine-year olds know the difference between truths and lies. But sometimes they want to do things without asking for permission. They might sneak around to get their way.

Nine-year olds also want to explore everything. They often try activities they are not ready for. They are independent and like to choose their own activities.

They are influenced by their peers. They spend more time with friends.

They tend to choose friends of the same gender. They tend to choose activities that are gender-specific.

At this age, children take good care of their belongings. They tend to have special places for their belongings to keep them away from younger siblings.

What Parents Can Do

- **Set reasonable limits on your child's freedom.** Make sure you always know where she is and who she is with.
- **Set clear expectations for helping.** Encourage and praise your child when he responds well.
- **Discipline your child.** You may need to be more stern with her at this age. Be serious about rules and expectations.
- **Support your child's transition from child to "tween."** Sometimes he still wants to be a baby and other times he wants to be seen as capable and mature. Communicate openly with him to help him through this transition.
- **Involve your child in more adult activities.** Allow her to observe so that she begins to learn for later in life. She needs opportunities to observe activities before she tries them.
- **Encourage good relationship values.** Encourage your child to share, respect, avoid conflict, help, be a good friend, and be honest. Teach him to keep promises.
- **Teach teamwork.** Expect your child to cooperate with others. Teach her to earn others' trust by being reliable.
- **Encourage your child to develop a good reputation.** Talk with him about what kind of person he wants to be known as and how to develop a good reputation. Teach him that his reputation affects his parents and whole family.

Parenting Skills to Practice for this Age

- Support your child to cooperate with others. Cooperation takes practice! Create opportunities for him to be part of a team, working with others to reach a goal. Expect him to help with all family activities.
- Support your child to develop her unique interests and talents. Help her choose activities that she enjoys and is naturally good at. Encourage her to be committed and to practice.
- Encourage your child to observe his experiences to learn from them. Give detailed instructions. Have him repeat the instructions back to you. Have him tell you about tasks when he's finished, including what happened and what he learned. Ask for details, such as how long the water took to boil or whether he had to hit the wood a lot before it split.

Tips for Parents

- ✓ Your child might be defiant at this age. She needs to respect you and your authority. Set clear rules and discipline your child when she doesn't follow them.
- ✓ Discipline should be fair and fit the situation. Be firm, but don't be too stern. Be calm and speak seriously so your child sees that you are in control. Never yell at the child, even if you are angry. If you are too angry to be calm, send your child to another room. Then, deal with the issue when you are calm.