



Alternatives to TV

Changing the way Americans use television.

Ages Six to Twelve Years: Childhood

Developmental Characteristics

During these years, the child is going through a socialization process that is an important feature of his/her preparation for adult life. Learning how to make friends and be a friend, to participate in activities with others, to lead and to follow, to cooperate and to compete are all elements of this socialization process.

Children at this age are interested in developing competence. They will gravitate to those activities for which they have talent, have experienced success, and/or gain approval and appreciation from family members. In areas where they don't excel, they need encouragement.

Indoor Activities

- Building with wood
- Putting on plays
- Collages, scrapbooks, photo albums
- Reading
- Writing letters, stories
- Collecting and cataloging
- Taking apart (broken) machines (Note: for safety, cut of the wall plug)
- Tricks and tests of skill
- Singing, listening to music, practicing an instrument
- Keeping a journal
- Pen pals
- Building Models
- Sewing, knitting, crocheting
- Card games, board games

Outdoor Activities

- Exploration and identification of birds, insects, trees, frogs, flowers, etc.
- Growing garden/window boxes
- Building toy boats
- Pinwheels and kites
- Riding bikes, skateboards, roller blades