

Montessori Comparison of Late Childhood and Adolescent Characteristics

12 to 18 years old

Great transformation, physically and mentally - puberty marks the end of childhood

Frailties of health - more susceptible to illnesses

Psychological changes - doubts & hesitations, violent emotions, and discouragements

Unexpected decrease in intellectual capacity - the power & assimilation prominent in second plane have now decreased

A state of expectation

Tendency toward creative work

A need for the strengthening of self-confidence

Revolt against authority - especially if the authority lacks sympathy & understanding

Hyper-sensitive - helps develop sense of justice personal dignity, prepares child to become social being

Introverted - looks inward for development

Creation of socially conscious individual - most essential feature of adolescence, increased awareness to all the facts and experiences which relate to his life as a social being, clearly conscious of himself as a separate member of society

Requires respect and dignity - is sensitive to criticism, quick to imagine ridicule, does not want attention placed on him, wants equality in social status

Conscious of differences in social status -personal appearance, pocket money, clothes become important

18 to 24 years old

Preparation of organism is complete

General good health

Psychologically ready for responsibility and independence - traditional university life does not allow for this, can have lack of consciousness

Desires intellectual stimulation

A time of coming together

Seeks life fulfilling work

Confidence in self becomes stable

Appreciates authority in society - realizes society must have rules to function

Ability to withstand criticism

Balance of introversion and extroversion - now can use both to his advantage

Socially conscious individual is created

Shows respect & dignity to others

More emphasis placed on individual qualities than on social status