

# Common Characteristics of Teens

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Do you see any of the following traits in your child? If so, while they may be frustrating at times, they are behaving in socially age appropriate ways during their middle school years.

## 11 year olds

Fluctuations in behavior

Argumentative and competitive

Emotionally intense - Can be overly dramatic

Increased peer influence

Teases others without realizing the damage of their actions

## **12 year olds**

Critical of self and others

Withdraw from family–has fewer friends

Moody, easily hurt or annoyed with people

Wants more freedom to make their own choices

Agonizes over personal appearance

## **13 year olds**

Starting to gain more confidence

Better self control

More interested in the opposite sex

Concerned about grades and tests

## **14 year olds**

More friendly, self confident and outgoing

Social life becomes very important

Anxious to be accepted by peers

Enjoys arguing as a game