

Boys & Girls 6 Years Old

28 Common Skills of Children During Their 6th Year



Young children are always learning.

They grow and develop at different rates, have different interests, and different experiences. This guide presents some of the skills most children are able to do during their 6th year.

Use this guide to help.

Remember that some children will be able to do all of these things and more. Other children may be able to do many of the things listed but not be able to do others. Use this guide to help you observe your six-year-old. If you have questions about your child, speak to your pediatrician or school teacher.

During the 6th year, a child ...

1. Shows initiative and self confidence

- suggests family projects for a Saturday afternoon
- offers to help mom clean the basement
- knows what to do instead if original plans don't work out
- wants to play board games and ball games with friends
- begins to be a good problem solver

2. Learns how to handle problems with friends

- spends time discussing with a friend when they do not agree on what to play
- knows when it is time to call for mom's help if the children start fighting
- asks big sister about the correct rules of the card game



3. Gets more involved in learning new things

- works on an art project for three days to complete it
- spends a few days learning about many kinds of dinosaurs
- continues to read the same book for several days until it is completed

4. Enjoys talking to and working with adults and other children

- joins in when everyone is talking at the breakfast table
- gets a group together to play bingo
- works with dad and brother on the car



5. Uses a larger vocabulary when speaking

- uses new words when telling or writing a story
- gives detailed reasons for why the movie was so great or how the dish was broken
- talks about her/his feelings and the feelings of others

6. Listens for a longer time to interesting stories and compares them to her/his life

- sits quietly and with interest when grandpa is telling a story
- talks about how the same thing in the story happened to her/him
- can accurately guess what will come next in a story

7. Enjoys writing and learning to spell new words

- writes a note to mom
- makes a list of birthday wishes and asks how to spell many words
- writes a story and wants to read it to everyone at the dinner table



8. Shows an interest in reading

- asks to get new books at the library
- tells the family about the story she/he read today
- wants to find more books on the same subject

9. Follows a list of directions successfully

- listens to dad explain the rules of the ball game and then follows them correctly
- helps mom shop by going and getting the items she says she needs

10. Knows how to match a written number with a number of items

- points to and counts books and writes the number on a note pad
- keeps score in a game

11. Tries to figure out answers to math problems

- uses fingers to count how many cookies we need for all six children to get two each
- pulls 12 pennies away from the pile when asked how much is $4 + 8$



12. Begins to understand place value

- counts by 10's to 100
- knows when adding $3 + 10$ to start with 10 and add 3 more
- knows that 44 is in between 40 and 50

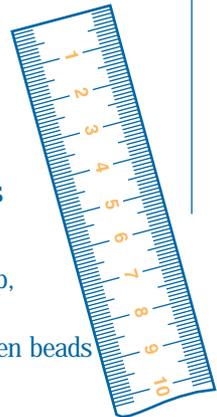
13. Starts to understand and be able to tell time



- knows that bed time is 8:00 on a school night
- tells mom the teacher said to read for $\frac{1}{2}$ hour every night
- knows that gym class is two times each week

14. Likes to measure things using many measuring tools

- measures the size of everybody's feet using a ruler
- uses a tape measure to measure a bicycle
- uses the bathroom scale to weigh toys and books



15. Notices and can copy many kinds of patterns

- sees and can copy the pattern of the tile floor
- knows what is missing in a moving pattern (hop, hop, jump, hop, hop, _____)
- can make a pattern of many shapes and colors of wooden beads

16. Enjoys sorting things into different categories

- says she/he just sorted the toys by those that float and those that sink
- separates rocks that are shiny from those that are not

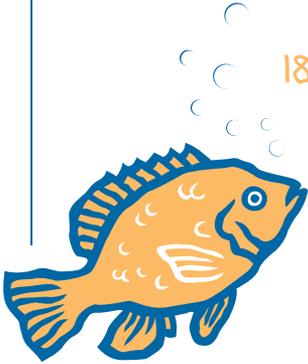
17. Watches plants and animals very carefully

- plants some seeds and watches them grow
- studies how birds eat seeds
- compares the color markings on the guinea pigs in the store



18. Likes to explain to people why something happened

- tells a friend that plants grow best with a lot of light
- tells mom how a fish breathes in water
- gets excited because she/he can explain how a battery makes a toy move



19. Watches closely to find out how things work

- drops a ball from different heights to see how high it will bounce
- looks at the computer printer to see how it prints different colors

20. Begins to understand maps

- follows the Pirate's treasure map in the Weekly Reader
- looks at a map of the state to see where an aunt and uncle live
- draws a map to get to school

21. Sees that people are alike and different from one another

- talks about a best friend who likes to watch the same kind of movies
- tells mom about a child at school who cannot hear
- realizes that all people do not celebrate Christmas or Hanukah

22. Begins to understand how people rely on one another

- sees how the nurse and the doctor work together to help someone who is sick

23. Knows that people should respect our environment

- remembers to use the recycling bin for soda cans
- reminds friends not to litter

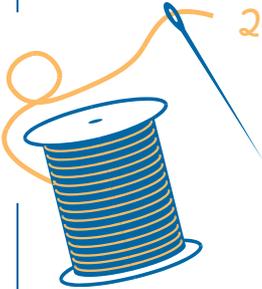


24. Notices and talks about examples of good leadership

- helps mom to set rules for younger brothers or sisters
- talks about how the fire fighters and medics help all people
- tells dad about the rules the school principal asked the children to follow

25. Enjoys expressing ideas and experiences in many ways

- uses many colors when drawing a picture
- can pretend to be a loud old man or a funny clown or an unhappy small baby



26. Works on projects that are not too difficult with careful attention

- sews a dress for a doll with some help from grandma
- puts together a model car (with few pieces) and then paints it
- writes numbers and letters very clearly

27. Shows understanding of good health

- uses a tissue to wipe a runny nose without being told to do it
- knows to get hats and gloves and boots when the weather is cold

28. Has better coordination

- plays jump rope and hop scotch
- throws and catches a ball
- uses scissors to cut an outlined picture



During the 6th year, a child ...

1. Shows initiative and self confidence
2. Learns how to handle problems with friends
3. Gets more involved in learning new things
4. Enjoys talking to and working with adults and other children
5. Uses a larger vocabulary when speaking
6. Listens for a longer time to interesting stories and compares them to her/his life
7. Enjoys writing and learning to spell new words
8. Shows an interest in reading
9. Follows a list of directions successfully
10. Knows how to match a written number with a number of items
11. Tries to figure out answers to math problems
12. Begins to understand place value
13. Starts to understand and be able to tell time
14. Likes to measure things using many measuring tools
15. Notices and can copy many kinds of patterns
16. Enjoys sorting things into different categories
17. Watches plants and animals very carefully
18. Likes to explain to people why something happened
19. Watches closely to find out how things work
20. Begins to understand maps
21. Sees that people are alike and different from one another
22. Begins to understand how people rely on one another
23. Knows that people should respect our environment
24. Notices and talks about examples of good leadership
25. Enjoys expressing ideas and experiences in many ways
26. Works on projects that are not too difficult with careful attention
27. Shows understanding of good health
28. Has better coordination

EPI-center prepared this document for use by families and caregivers of children preparing to enter second

For more information about EPI-center, visit our web site at www.epi-center.org



425 Sixth Avenue
Suite 340
Pittsburgh, PA 15219-1819
Tel 412.281.2000
Fax 412.281.3157
www.epi-center.org

Karen McIntyre, PhD, President
Written by Susan E. Gove, PhD