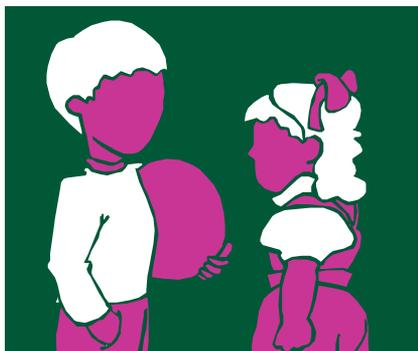


Boys & Girls 7 Years Old

30 Common Skills of Children During Their 7th 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 7th year.

During the 7th year, a child ...

1. Likes to investigate and is eager to learn

- pays close attention to new things and asks lots of questions about them
- looks for a book in the library on the animals she/he just saw at the zoo
- tries to build an airplane from wood that matches the one in the TV program



2. Wants to make her/his own choices

- decides to make a sand castle even if everyone else is swimming
- feels comfortable choosing a game to play although most others decide to go to the playground

3. Can pay attention to an activity over a longer period of time

- will finish reading a book to the end
- returns to finish working on a project day after day until it is complete

4. Works and plays well in a group

- plays as a good team member in the neighborhood soccer game
- is willing to wait for a turn when helping to decorate the cookies
- knows to play by the rules in the family card game of Go Fish



5. Discusses how to solve problems

- talks to two friends about including the new boy in their game
- asks mom what to do when her/his brother tells her/him to do something wrong

6. Is willing to be responsible

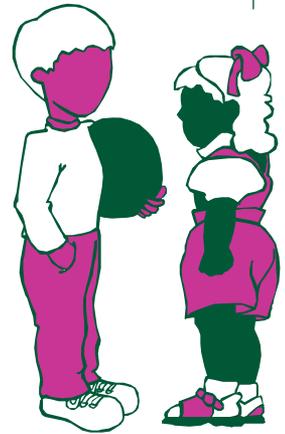
- knows to put dirty clothes into the hamper at night
- asks for a special job when the family is cleaning the house because company is coming
- admits to grandma that she/he dropped the flower pot
- cleans up after painting a picture without being told to clean

7. Adjusts well to new situations

- stops watching a movie without complaining to go to the store with dad
- is comfortable staying with a neighbor while mom goes to the dentist

8. Listens to and thinks about what others are saying

- is interested in a cousin's story about a vacation and asks for more details
- sees a dog on TV and asks how to teach our dog to do those tricks



9. Speaks with meaning and understanding

- can clearly explain how to set the timer on the microwave oven
- accurately tells dad what she/he saw during the trip to the museum
- enjoys telling the funny story about what happened in the park

10. Uses language for many different reasons

- asks good questions, like “Why don’t the stars shine during the day?”
- uses many colorful words to tell an exciting story about the camping trip
- explains in great detail how to make a paper snowflake



11. Likes to listen to stories being read or to read alone

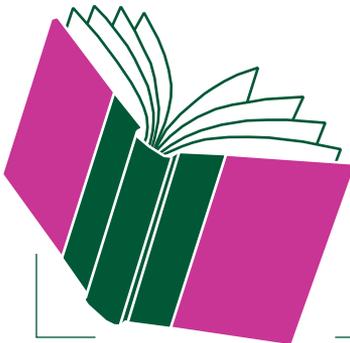
- looks forward to story time at the library or museum
- gets excited about buying a new book when shopping
- enjoys spending time alone in the bedroom reading

12. Reads for many different reasons

- reads several books on the same topic to learn more about horses
- tries to read a cook book to see how to make chocolate chip cookies
- reads all of the Dr. Seuss stories that are on the bookcase

13. Uses a variety of strategies to become a better reader

- figures out what a word is by sounding it out
- looks at pictures to help to see what the story is saying
- skips hard words at first then goes back after figuring out the words’ meaning
- guesses what will happen in the story before getting to the end



14. Uses writing for many reasons

- makes a list of games to take on vacation
- sends a letter to grandma
- writes a short story about a dream



15. Pays attention to spelling

- looks in books for the correct spelling of words
- asks for help spelling a word
- notices when a word is not spelled correctly

16. Knows that a story should have some kind of order

- realizes a story needs a beginning, middle and end
- tells what happened "next" as she/he tells or writes the story
- begins to understand that each story should have only one main topic



17. Understands reading and writing numbers

- knows that 12 and twelve and counting aloud to 12 means the same
- can read a calendar and give the date
- sees the clock says 12:00 and knows its time for lunch

18. Uses pictures to solve math problems

- draws a picture of the animals to see how many legs in all are on 3 horses
- sees that 20 is the same quantity if it is 20 cookies or 10 dogs + 10 cats
- draws a pie to show how to share two pizzas with 8 people



19. Sees patterns in numbers

- knows what numbers come next when counting 13, 11, 9, __, __, __
- counts cards by 2's to quickly see who won the card game



20. Enjoys collecting and recording information

- asks the children who wants grape and who wants orange soda and tallies their answers
- keeps track of how many more days until spring vacation
- adds how much money they made selling lemonade on the corner

21. Notices small differences in sights, sounds, and smells

- sees that grandma is wearing new earrings and says they are very pretty
- hears a neighbor's dog barking and knows whose dog it is
- knows what mom is cooking for dinner by the smell

22. Closely examines living and non-living things

- watches a cat for a long time while it eats, drinks and licks itself clean
- looks at a butterfly under a magnifying glass
- compares the different types of rocks collected near the river bank





23. Wants to conduct and talk about scientific experiments

- wants to soak a bean until it sprouts and then plant it in soil
- watches to see how long it takes a bowl of water to evaporate
- likes to mix colors of play dough together and guess what new color they will make

24. Asks many detailed what and how questions

- How can we find out if this is a good place for a robin to make a nest?
- What would happen if oil got spilled on the floor and someone stepped in it?

25. Sees the need for people to rely on one another

- asks others for help or opinions when trying to complete a project
- knows the farmer must do his job for there to be milk and bread in the store
- reminds the family to recycle cans and jars for the good of everyone on earth



26. Notices differences in people

- sees that some children are better at sports or reading than others
- talks about how nice or not nice playmates are
- realizes that some children have physical or mental limitations

27. Begins to understand the meaning of past time

- talks about things she/he used to do when she/he was 4 and 5 and 6
- asks grandpa about what things were like when he was 7 years old



28. Expands interests in art, music and plays

- gets very detailed when building with Lego's or blocks or sand
- uses many colors, designs and materials when making pictures
- enjoys putting on a play or puppet show
- makes up new words to songs



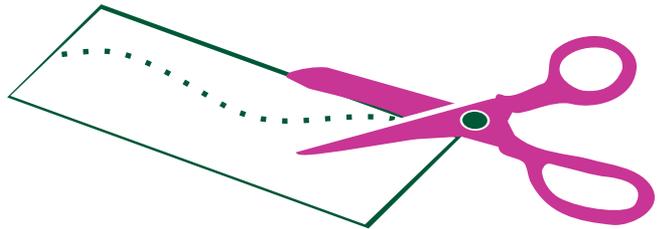
29. Has good physical balance and control

- runs and catches a ball without falling
- dances to the rhythm of the music
- holds napkins and silverware to set the table without dropping them



30. Uses her/his fingers and hands with good skill

- uses the computer keyboard easily
- cuts curved lines and small shapes with scissors
- begins to develop her/his own writing style



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1. Likes to investigate and is eager to learn
2. Wants to make her/his own choices
3. Can pay attention to an activity over a longer period of time
4. Works and plays well in a group
5. Discusses how to solve problems
6. Is willing to be responsible
7. Adjusts well to new situations
8. Listens to and thinks about what others are saying
9. Speaks with meaning and understanding
10. Uses language for many different reasons
11. Likes to listen to stories being read or to read alone
12. Reads for many different reasons
13. Uses a variety of strategies to become a better reader
14. Uses writing for many reasons
15. Pays attention to spelling
16. Knows that a story should have some kind of order
17. Understands reading and writing numbers
18. Uses pictures to solve math problems
19. Sees patterns in numbers
20. Enjoys collecting and recording information
21. Notices small differences in sights, sounds, and smells
22. Closely examines living and non-living things
23. Wants to conduct and talk about scientific experiments
24. Asks many detailed what and how questions
25. Sees the need for people to rely on one another
26. Notices differences in people
27. Begins to understand the meaning of past time
28. Expands interests in art, music and plays

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 seven-year-old. If you have questions about your child, speak to your pediatrician or a school teacher.

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

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



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