



# Boys & Girls 8 Years Old

32 Common Skills of Children During Their 8th 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 8th year.

# During the 8th year, a child ...

## 1. Shows more self confidence

- chooses friends because they like the same things
- looks at her/his own work and can talk about what is good and what needs to be improved
- knows that mom or grandpa love her/him as much as they love other brothers and sisters



## 2. Makes good decisions

- helps the group organize a game without being bossy
- knows not to start a fight when someone makes her/him mad
- makes independent decisions even when friends do not agree

## 3. Has good manners and good self control

- uses other's things carefully and puts them back when finished
- asks permission to use other's things
- puts things away quickly when asked
- adjusts to schedule changes without crying or complaining
- does not interrupt when mom is on the telephone

## 4. Is an eager and curious learner

- explores special interests in depth
- thinks about the different ways to do a job before beginning it
- makes choices about materials, activities, work and play partners
- makes a plan before getting started on new projects



## 5. Gets along well with friends

- plays and works with others without fighting
- welcomes new players to a game
- is sometimes the leader and sometimes the follower at playtime
- thinks about the ideas others have before deciding how to do something
- enjoys planning and doing projects with friends



## 6. Cares about other's feelings

- invites less popular children to play
- talks to mom about how to help friends who have problems
- cares about what others say or want to do



## 7. Listens closely and understands conversations

- asks mom questions to know more about what people are discussing
- can follow directions that have many steps to them

## 8. Is good at talking to other people

- speaks clearly and uses expressive language
- thinks for a few minutes about things before saying them
- talks about things that are interesting to many people

## 9. Enjoys reading

- makes connections between her/his life and what is in books
- begins to read more quickly, not reading word-by-word
- can guess how a story might end before reading it in the book



## 10. Writes for a variety of reasons

- helps mom make a shopping list
- writes reports for school
- writes a letter to the Governor to request information on the state



## 11. Begins to be a better speller

- notices when words she/he writes are not spelled correctly
- asks how to spell words less often



## 12. Writes good stories

- can write a story that has a beginning, middle and end
- knows how to write a story that will be interesting to the person who will read it

## 13. Explores and solves problems using shapes and designs

- can draw a picture that is exactly like another picture
- puts several shapes together to make a design



## 14. Begins to understand how to estimate, multiply and divide numbers

- guesses that there are 250 pennies in the jar, and then counts to be sure
- explains to you that  $6 \times 3$  is really  $6 + 6 + 6$
- can figure out how many cookies each child gets if there are 24 cookies and 8 children



## 15. Has a better understanding of numbers

- knows what comes next when counting 69, 79, 89,
- can add how much money (in dimes, pennies and quarters) is in the piggy bank
- begins to understand the meaning of  $\frac{1}{2}$ ,  $\frac{1}{3}$ ,  $\frac{1}{4}$



## 16. Enjoys sorting objects using two or three guidelines

- sorts pictures of animals by where they live and what they eat
- separates hockey cards by league, team and position

$$\begin{array}{r} 1 \\ 27 \\ + 16 \\ \hline 43 \end{array}$$

## 17. Is able to explain how to solve problems

- can explain why to carry the ones when adding two digit numbers ( $27 + 16$ )
- makes a chart to keep track of how many hits and runs each baseball team gets

## 18. Learns to measure things

- can tell time using a regular clock
- uses a tape measure to measure friends and family members

## 19. Enjoys organizing information

- looks at a number of different books for information on a favorite subject
- makes lists of things to do while on vacation
- keeps a list of movies she/he has watched
- keeps a telephone/address book

## 20. Wants to watch how plants and animals live

- enjoys seeing if the tomato plant has tomatoes yet
- studies how the hamster holds and eats its food and how it builds its nest
- looks at the animals' houses when visiting the zoo



## 21. Likes to do experiments and predict what will happen

- uses a magnet to see what will stick to it and what will not
- times how long it takes water to become an ice cube or an ice cube to melt
- enjoys testing the string to see how strong it is

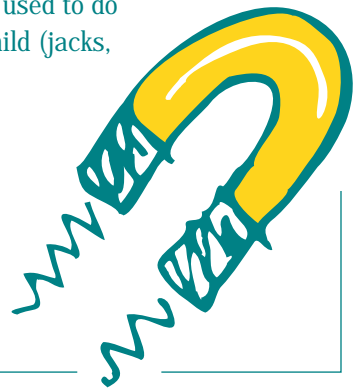


## 22. Begins to understand why and how things happen

- tells how the earth moves and why it is dark at night
- watches how some things float in water and some things sink, and explains why this happens

## 23. Likes to hear about how things used to be and how they are now

- asks dad what he did as a child “in the olden days” before TV was invented
- wants grandpa to tell about the work he used to do
- likes to learn games mom played as a child (jacks, hopscotch, jump rope)



## 24. Understands the need for laws and for rules

- helps friends decide who is right about the game rules and who is playing fairly
- pretends to be a courtroom judge and tells the men selling drugs that they must go to jail
- tells you what she/he will do when she/he becomes President of the U.S.

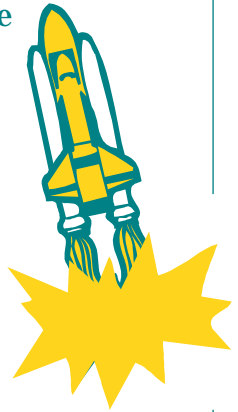


## 25. Wants to make the earth a good, clean place to live

- knows not to litter and tells others not to litter
- sees the smoke from a truck and asks about the pollution it is causing

## 26. Asks questions about the past and the future

- What would have happened if no one discovered the telephone?
- Why did we build space ships to go to the moon?
- How did anyone know how to make a computer?



## 27. Knows that people did things differently in the past than they do today

- draws pictures of people from earlier years (Pilgrims, cavemen)
- writes about how people's lives were different before computers



## 28. Shows good health and safety habits

- keeps body and hair clean and neat
- follows traffic safety rules
- washes hands before meals



## 29. Moves with good speed and coordination

- runs, swerves, changes direction without falling
- can do cartwheels and flips and enjoys trying harder stunts
- can skate or roller blade



## 30. Enjoys making and doing things using her/his hands

- enjoys stringing very small beads to make a necklace
- wants to try to sew a button on a shirt
- uses tools to build with wood
- starts to use cursive writing

## 31. Shows lots of interest in things others are doing

- wants to learn the words to the new song that friends are singing
- looks closely at the artwork done by the other children
- asks her/his uncle if she/he can learn his computer program

## 32. Likes trying new ideas

- mixes different foods together to make a new taste
- builds a piece of artwork using many different materials
- rearranges toys and books on the shelf in a new order



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9. Enjoys reading
10. Writes for a variety of reasons
11. Begins to be a better speller
12. Writes good stories
13. Explores and solves problems using shapes and designs
14. Begins to understand how to estimate, multiply and divide numbers
15. Has a better understanding of numbers
16. Enjoys sorting objects using two or three guidelines
17. Is able to explain how to solve problems
18. Learns to measure things
19. Enjoys organizing information
20. Wants to watch how plants and animals live
21. Likes to do experiments and predict what will happen
22. Begins to understand why and how things happen
23. Likes to hear about how things used to be and how they are now
24. Understands the need for laws and for rules
25. Wants to make the earth a good, clean place to live
26. Asks questions about the past and the future
27. Knows that people did things differently in the past than they do today
28. Shows good health and safety habits
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31. Shows lots of interest in things others are doing
32. Likes trying new ideas

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

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

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