

Ages and stages of Youth Development

Keep these aspects of youth development in mind as you plan activities.



5-8

Early Childhood
"Cloverbuds"



20 min.
attention span

participation



winning

high energy



concrete
thinkers



active
learners



9-11

Middle Childhood
"Junior 4-H'ers"

attachment to
older youth



loyal to same-sex peers



45 min.
attention span

begin planning
social activities



12-14

Early Adolescence
"Junior/Senior 4-H'ers"



make
unrealistic
choices



make own
decisions
with
guidance



enjoy
topics
with
global
relevance

15-18

Middle Adolescence
"Senior 4-H'ers"



drive for social
acceptance

abstract
thinkers



leaders
emerge



variety of experiences

**ALL
AGES**



Safe opportunities to
try, fail, and try again!

strong positive
mentoring



SOURCE: "Positive Youth Development: Understanding Ages & Stages of Youth Development". USDA

