

DEVELOPMENTAL STAGES KIDMIN LEADERS NEED TO KNOW

Stage of Life	Characteristics of Developmental Stage	Practical Application
Nursery (Infant-Toddler)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Physical observations important for learning Learning to trust through relationships with parents and caretakers Sense of self-autonomy and independence begins to develop in toddlerhood 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Model habits and spiritual disciplines Respond to needs quickly Create safe environments Offer opportunities to make decisions, no matter how small Offer events and activities that build relationships
Preschool & Young Elementary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creative and emotional learning; imaginative play is the most common form of learning Influenced by images, stories, and symbols Logical thinking is not yet present (which is why you can never win an argument against a preschooler) Begin to develop self-worth based on how useful, purposeful, and competent they feel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incorporate imaginative play often Use images and stories in Bible teaching Provide ways for children to serve and be active participants in each activity Offer events and activities that build relationships
Older Elementary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concrete thinking; literal interpretations of Bible stories Children begin to think logically and look for order in the world, but still find meaning in stories Become aware of their individuality and uniqueness Attention spans are lengthening Have a strong sense of justice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Connect the lesson to something children interact with on a weekly basis Be prepared to answer logical, black-and-white questions Recognize and celebrate what makes each child unique Offer events and activities that build relationships
Preteen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Abstract thinking emerges Starting to question their faith as it becomes their own Can begin to see the perspective of others Fitting into a community and with their peers increases in importance Begin to form their own philosophy of life and faith and how they themselves fit into their budding worldview 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Go deeper with theological ideas Create a trusting environment where preteens feel comfortable asking questions Provide more missions opportunities Offer events and activities that build relationships

WANT TO INCLUDE DEVELOPMENTAL STAGES TRAINING IN YOUR OVERALL VOLUNTEER TRAINING?



CHECK OUT PUT ME IN, COACH!

A complete resource to help you host a 1-hour all-star volunteer training that teaches, equips, and inspires your volunteer team

This Developmental Stages Printable comes from [Put Me In Coach](#) and is used in the training schedule to help volunteers think about how they can best engage kids at every stage. Check out the [Put Me In Coach Volunteer Training Resource](#) for more details.

