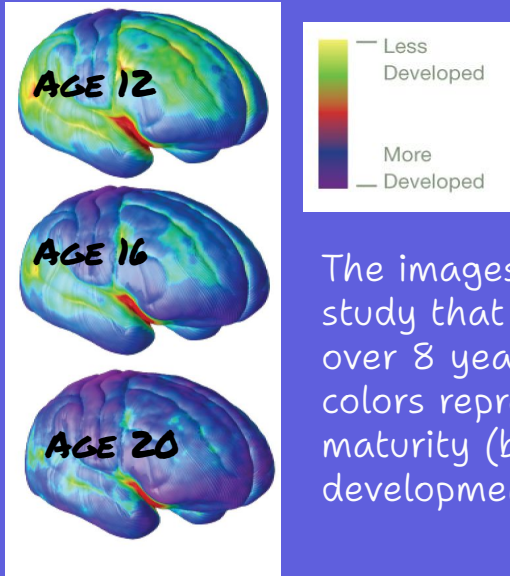


Coffee With the

Principal ✨



Brain Function:

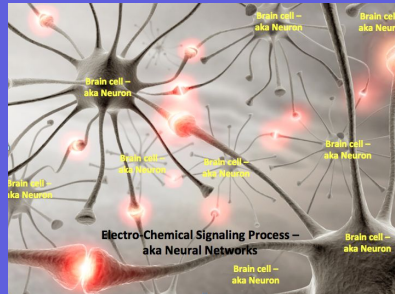
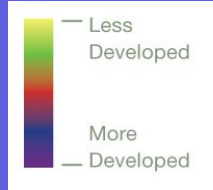
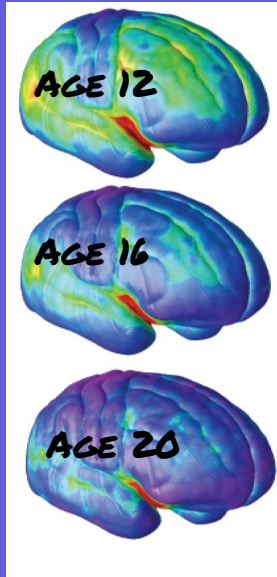


The images a time-lapse study that was conducted over 8 years. The darker colors represent brain maturity (brain development).

Brain is not fully developed until age 25

- Clumsy at first but as it develops it gets better at balancing impulse, desire, goals, self-interest, rules, ethics, and even altruism - eventually generating behavior that is more complex more sensible.

Brain Function:



Frontal Lobes are not fully connected (access is slower)

- Is that a good idea?, What is the consequence of this action?

Nerve cells are sluggish- thin layer of myelin (white matter)

- Think insulation for electrical wiring

Stages of Development:

What to expect at each grade level

What are some of the common
developmental characteristics that
we are expected to see in the
classroom and at home?

TK:

Ages
4-5

Physical Development:

- Very energetic, active and very clumsy (collisions/spills)
- May sometimes struggle with close visual activities like reading and writing and will have trouble switching from near sighted to far sighted things
- Fine motor skills are not well developed

Emotional Development:

- Need help finding the words to express needs and feelings.
- Can learn social skills through giving praise and modeling apologizing for unintentional mistakes.

Academic Development:

- Learn by moving (play & explore)
- Need clear structure routines and expectations
- Imagination is vivid (role play and acting out for learning)
- Short attention spans, hard to stay in one area, may attend a task for up to 15 minutes

Kinder:

Ages
5-6

Physical Development:

- Continue to be very energetic
- They can be seen gaining better control over their gross motor skills like jumping and running
- Their eyes tend to focus on closer objects (copying from the board may be difficult)

Emotional Development:

- Starting to express themselves better but usually with only a few words
- Really struggle to see others point of view
- Love fairness, rules, routines and do well with clear simple explanation of expectations

Academic Development:

- Repetition and hands on exploration
- Like to copy, repeat stories, sing songs, hear poems & play
- Can work for about 15-20 mins

1st:

Ages
6-7

Physical Development:

- They can work in spurts but can tire easily
- More comfortable standing than sitting
- Highly competitive (but still pretty clumsy at times)
- Want to do things themselves & have a desire to perform well but may need lots of practice (slow down)
- Need Wiggle Breaks!

Emotional Development:

- Anxious to do well
- Enjoys sharing
- Lots of tantrums and testing their limits (usually with adults)
- Critical of others and can come off as bossy

Academic Development:

- Ambitious & may take on projects that may be too hard
- Writing may still be sloppy but has improved!
- Love real world experiences (field trips, use of technology)

2nd:

Ages
7-8

Physical Development:

- Improved gross and fine motor skills (much better pencil grasp)
- More coordinated (throwing, catching, and other sport activities)

Emotional Development:

- Perfectionists and can worry a lot
- Strong sense of right/wrong and likes/dislikes
- Sometimes moody and pouty but can learn coping skills
- Identify w/ other kids of same gender. May find a best friend that shares common interests.
- They show a deeper understanding of relationships and responsibilities and can take charge of SIMPLE chores.
- Peers may test his beliefs and friendship challenges may arise
- Like adult reassurance/help (especially from their teacher & parent)
- Fully understands rules and regulations & love stability and predictability

Academic Development:

- Do not like taking risks or making mistakes
- Practice math skills through games and manipulatives (add jokes)
- Increase in listening and speaking skills

3rd:

Ages
8-9

Physical Development:

- Opportunities to burn off energy outdoors/on the playground is important for this age as they can become restless
- Growth spurts
- Increased dexterity and improved skills in drawing, writing etc.

Emotional Development:

- Like to socialize and want peers' approval as much as teacher's
- Their moods and interests may change rapidly
- Love to share humor and need patience to help relieve anxieties
- Growing sense of moral responsibility & awareness of fairness

Academic Development:

- May not follow through with multistep directions
- Starting to really master handcrafts and computers
- Full of ideas but may be impatient/sloppy with the result
- Can become easily frustrated with difficult tasks or deem it as boring

4th:

Ages
9-10

Physical Development:

- May see huge increase in muscle development

Emotional Development:

- Impatient & easily frustrated, adult encouragement helps them persevere
- Peer & friend groups may take precedence over other relationships.
- Are able to have more complex back and forth conversations.
- Promote supportive adult relationships
- Increase opportunities to take part in positive community activities increases resilience.

Academic Development:

- Typically better readers and okay at solving word problems
- Will begin learning about how to research
- Increased interest in technology and social media. Will want to use it as a form of self expression
- May like collecting, classifying, organizing items
- Work may still sometimes be sloppy as they begin to integrate written expression and spelling

5th:

Ages
10-11

Physical Development:

- Amazing fine motor control
- Increase in appetite and may need lots of sleep
- May start staying up later - harder mornings
- May start puberty

Emotional Development:

- Solidifying likes/dislikes but may be influenced by trends
- Quick to anger and to forgive
- Highly sensitive to and able to resolve friendship and fairness issues
- Appreciate being noticed and rewarded for their efforts

Academic Development:

- Can be flexible and cooperative
- Eager to help others (big buddy)
- Can concentrate for long periods of time and may need help with time management to complete lengthy assignment
- Increasing abstract thinking

Tips For All Ages:

- Allow your child to have some household chores and responsibilities
- Make time for experiential learning
- Allow time for communication
 - A meal together as a family
 - Ask them to share special thing that happened this week
 - Don't shy from difficult conversations
 - It's okay to not have all of the answers
- Motor skills
 - Give kids lots of opportunities with different tools and modalities (ie. typing, working with tools, sports etc).

Thank You For

 **Coming!** 

Presentation by:
Ann Kropp - Principal
Joy Soares - School Psychologist