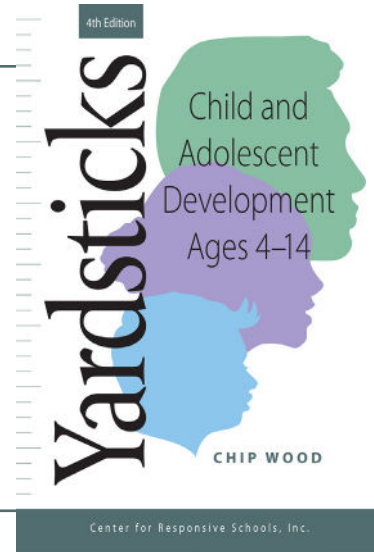


## Discussion Questions for

# Yardsticks

Child and Adolescent Development Ages 4–14  
(4th Edition)

By Chip Wood



Whether you are a parent looking for information about your child's age and stage or a teacher preparing for a new classroom full of students, you'll find helpful information in this book. You will learn more about typical child and adolescent development, as well as the inherent strengths and positive attributes of each level. After reading *Yardsticks*, you will more fully understand the children around you and be better able to support them as they grow and change.

### Knowing Our Students • Pages 5–20

Knowing where a child is developmentally, as well as personally and culturally, can help a teacher structure challenging lessons, connect student interests and strengths with learning, and create an environment that meets students' needs. This knowledge can give a parent insight into why a child behaves a particular way as well as what might be going on at school.

A child's chronological age doesn't necessarily correlate with developmental age, and it's typical for a child to have developmental traits from different ages at the same time. How can you best support this uneven growth at home or in the classroom?

## Getting the Most Out of *Yardsticks* • Pages 21–30

You can read *Yardsticks* with a focus on one particular child or several children and to support what's happening right now or prepare for the future. Review the tips for teachers on page 26 and parents on page 27. What do you hope to learn from the *Yardsticks* guidelines?

## *Yardsticks* Guidelines by Age • Pages 31–174

Each age section contains an opening narrative, information for parents, and guidelines about growth patterns and how they relate to learning. As you read, consider how this information relates to children you know. What sounds familiar? What surprises you about the developmental observations in the book? What insights have you gained about each age?

Author Chip Wood recommends using the “age-bracket strategy” (p. 10) of reading the guidelines for a three-year span (the chronological age, plus the ages above and below it). How does knowing the typical characteristics of this three-year age span around a child's chronological age help you better understand a child's development?

*The most important thing of all to keep in mind as you use these guidelines is that each student is an individual: Their development will be unique even though it fits within broad developmental patterns. (p. 27)*