

# Child Development 11-18

How do children tell you their world is OK or Not OK



## OK

Some key factors to assist the development of our understanding of young people's worlds.

## Not OK

Young people may function at a younger developmental level when experiencing trauma eg. Family breakdown - illness - operations - abuse or bullying. Look for significant changes to the child's behaviour. These may include any of the following signs of distress and may often persist into later stages of development.



### 11-14 years - Frustrated Visions of Adulthood

Able to understand and use abstract thinking.  
Able to move between concrete and abstract.  
Explores ideas and possibilities - reasoning.  
Extreme emotions.

Fighting verbally rather than physically.  
Rapid and uneven growth.

Awkwardness, restlessness and laziness.

Ability to achieve a joint goal through group discussion.

Wide range of differences in maturity level.

The importance of justice, dignity and equality.

Strive to fit into a peer group.

Pushing limits.

Upholds rules.

Need to succeed.

Develops personal faith.



### 11-14 years

Exceptionally challenging authority.

Excessive swearing.

Antagonistic.

Behave the opposite to what they want to.

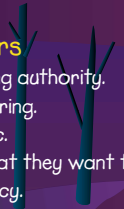
Fear of intimacy.

Conflict between emotion and beliefs.

Intrusive thoughts - especially about traumas.

Failure to develop own identity.

Eating disorders.



### 14-18 years - Whirlwinds

Able to perform and think about more than one task.

More complex abstract reasoning - philosophising.

Adults do relate well to their reasoning.

Developing a coded language and rituals to strengthen peer group bonds.

Return to habits of a younger child.

Sensitive - easily wounded by comments.

Pushing boundaries.

Passionate interests eg. Sports, hobbies, social concern.

Strive to fit into a limited peer group.

Preoccupation with acceptance by the social group.

Identifies with an admired adult / older peer.

High interest in appearance / attractiveness.



### 14-18 years

Acting out.

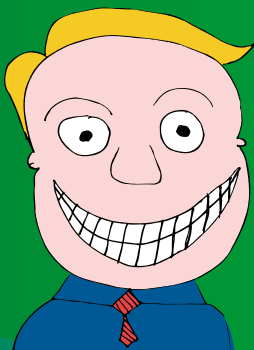
Self hatred.

Self harm.

Fear of relationships.

Sexually inappropriate.

Abusing alcohol / drugs / food.



If from reading this, you have concerns about a young person, please see your GP, health visitor or the child's school.