

TEENAGER:

Older Kid or Young Adult?



In our life we go through multiple stages. We start as a baby, then a toddler, then a kid, then a tween. These four stages of our life are our childhood. After comes our teenage years. They start on our 13th birthday and last until our 18th birthday. This stage lasts five years. When we turn 18, the world labels us as an adult. Many people look back on their teenage years with regret. This is because a lot of us either try to be the child from our previous years or try to grow up too fast. Recently, in our generation, it's been more of the latter.

When we are teenagers, multiple things are going on around us, not to mention all the bodily changes we experience. The hormones being released accentuates any emotion we feel making them hard to deal with and almost impossible to understand. Conflicts seem more important than they are and everything eventually is a huge deal. Once we reach adolescence, we have an increasing amount of responsibility put on us. As I mentioned earlier, many teenagers right now are trying to grow up too fast. We want to see and feel what our future looks like. Many of us can't wait until we hold the possibilities of what we can do; have control of all the decisions and what goes on around us. We see the freedom adults have and we want that. We want to be free. What many teenagers don't understand is that freedom comes with a price. When we are adults, living on our own, we have to deal with different burdens. Some responsibilities that come with being an adult are taxes, bills, cooking, cleaning, plan retirement, providing for family and the responsibility of making our own choices. These are just a few of them. Being a teenager is a gift.



We get more freedom than what we had as children and we don't have to deal with the responsibilities of being an adult. The five short years of our teenage years should be filled with moments of self-realization and happiness.

Even though sometimes hormones can get in the way of success for a regular teenager, being in the age group of 13-17 is prime time. We have the learning ability of a child and the maturity of an adult. This means that we can grasp concepts faster than other age groups while being able to use them in everyday situations with the maturity that comes with growing up. During this learning period, we also come to sense with who we are as people and what morals we want to follow. Oftentimes, teenagers are exposed

to real-life issues that they are not used to, or comfortable with. Being a teenager is stressful. We can't go back to being a kid so we look forward to the only other escape - adulthood. The way that we respond to these issues is how we build our character. These reactions show us and everyone else the potential we carry.

Teenage years come with many advantages. We should enjoy being a kid because we can have fun without the burden of responsibilities. We can hang out with friends all the time, have summers off and can often get away with doing silly things without worrying about consequences. Although our teen years are an extremely weird and confusing time, we should use them to their full potential. We can understand what is going on around the world and grow as people, physically and mentally instead of trying to be older. We can have fun, learn and develop our character. We get to have five years to experience life at its best, let's not waste it!

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