

I don't know where this came from originally, but it is good information for parents or anyone working with middle school aged children to keep in mind:

A TYPICAL MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT

Physically...

- Lacks coordination and moves awkwardly
- Feels unlimited energy
- Is restless at times, listless at others
- Has a ravenous appetite and peculiar tastes
- Boys' development tends to lag a year or two behind girls'

Socially...

- Models self after peers, not family
- Adopts fads in speech, clothing, mannerisms and handwriting
- Desires direction but reserves the right to question
- Wants to make own choices, and clashes sometimes when parents exert authority
- Shows concern for social justice, for what is "right", for those who are less fortunate

Emotionally...

- Often irritated with too-rapid or too-slow physical development
- Is fearful of things real and imagined, but compensates with bravado
- Sometimes regresses to child-like behavior
- Is easily offended and sensitive to personal criticism
- Lacks self-confidence and tends to exaggerate

Intellectually...

- Is intensely curious and growing in mental abilities
- Enjoys using skills to solve real-life problems
- Is increasingly independent and thinking critically
- Prefers active learning situations and interaction with peers

Do any of these characteristics sound like your child?