

## Social development: infancy

- 0-3 months = smile at familiar faces
- 6 months = upset when mother leaves them with others
- 12 months = enjoy being with people they know. Enjoy meal times
- 2 years = like helping others and show concern when other children are upset.

Solitary play-infants tend to play alone, but like to be close to their parent or carer. They have a small social circle.

## Social development: early childhood

- 3 years = can take turns when playing with other children-  
**cooperative play**
- Become more independent
- 4 years = depend on parents and carers to provide social activities for them.
- Develop new social skills. E.g. getting dressed, eating with a knife and fork and going to the toilet
- Start learning norms of behaviour. E.g. manners, appropriate dress and method of speech
- 5-6 years = choose own friends and decide on play activities

## Social development: early childhood

Example: Secret Life of Four Year Olds

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ku5UI-aweVM>

Emotional and social development are interconnected-children will struggle to socialise with others if they can't understand their needs and have empathy.

## Social development: adolescence

- Crucial for making relationships and fitting in with peer groups.
- Establish identity and explore sexuality
- May experience conflict with parents
- Gain independence and own idea of the world.
- May go into employment and make friendships/relationships in this area.
- Less dependent on families
- Influenced by teachers, peers and the media

## Early adulthood v middle adulthood

### Early adulthood

- Expand social circle when you meet your partner-make new friends

Any other ideas?

Consider the positives and negatives

### Middle adulthood

- Stress of family life can result in social isolation

Any other ideas?

Consider the positives and negatives

## Social development: later adulthood

- Many older people maintain social relationships and freedom throughout this life stage.
- There are social clubs or day centres set up where people can meet to catch up, chat and have a drink together, or listen to music and reminisce.
- However, loss of health, retirement from work or death of a partner or close friend can make this difficult and lead to social isolation. They may not be able to get out and about as much due to illness or lack of physical abilities