
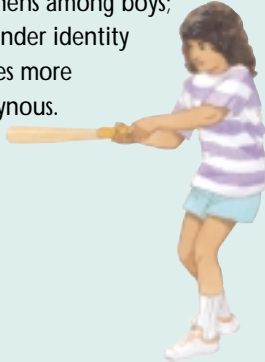



Gender Typing

M I L E S T O N E S

Age	Gender Stereotyping and Gender-Role Adoption	Gender Identity	Sex-Related Differences in Mental Abilities and Personality Traits
1½–5 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ “Gender-appropriate” play preferences emerge and increase. ■ Gender stereotyping of activities, occupations, and behaviors develops. ■ Preference for same-sex peers emerges and increases. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Gender constancy develops in a three-stage sequence: gender labeling, gender stability, and gender consistency. ■ By the end of this period, gender-linked self-evaluations develop. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Girls show more rapid language development during the second year, after which boys catch up. ■ Girls’ greater emotional sensitivity emerges and persists into adulthood. ■ Girls’ greater compliance and dependency is evident and persists into adulthood. ■ Boys’ greater overt aggression and girls’ greater relational aggression emerge and persist into adulthood.
6–11 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Knowledge of gender stereotypes expands, especially in areas of personality traits and achievement. ■ Gender stereotyping becomes more flexible. ■ Large-group play emerges among boys. ■ Girls experiment with “cross-gender” activities; boys’ preference for “masculine” pursuits increases. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ “Masculine” gender identity strengthens among boys; girls’ gender identity becomes more androgynous. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Girls are ahead in reading achievement throughout the school years. ■ Boys’ advantage in certain spatial abilities emerges and persists throughout the lifespan.
12–20 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Gender-role conformity increases in early adolescence and then declines, especially for girls. ■ Preference for same-sex peers becomes less pronounced after puberty. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Gender identities of both sexes become more traditional in early adolescence, a trend that gradually declines, especially for girls. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Boys’ advantage in mathematical reasoning emerges. ■ Depressive symptoms increase, occurring more often in girls than in boys. ■ Boys’ greater overt aggression translates into much higher involvement in antisocial behavior and violent crime, a trend accounted for by a small number of adolescents.

Note: These milestones represent overall age trends. Individual differences exist in the precise age at which each milestone is attained and in the extent of gender typing.