



- **Reasons Adults Seek Orthodontic Treatment**

Reasons Adults Seek Orthodontic Treatment Overcoming Hesitations About Braces Later in Life Clear Aligners for Subtle Tooth Movement Comparing Ceramic Brackets With Other Invisible Options Balancing Cosmetic Goals and Functional Needs Social Changes That Encourage Adult Orthodontics Handling Orthodontic Care Alongside Busy Schedules Managing Discomfort and Adjusting to Lifestyle Shifts Case Studies Highlighting Adult Smile Transformations Psychological Benefits of Aligned Teeth in Adulthood Minimizing Visibility of Orthodontic Appliances Key Questions Adults Often Ask About Treatment

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Reasons Adults Seek Orthodontic Treatment

****Desire for Improved Aesthetics**:** Many adults seek orthodontic treatment to enhance the appearance of their smile, addressing concerns such as crooked teeth, gaps, or overbites that may have persisted from childhood or developed due to various life factors.

****Desire for Improved Aesthetics**:** Many adults seek orthodontic treatment to enhance the appearance of their smile, addressing concerns such as crooked teeth, gaps, or overbites that may have persisted from childhood or developed due to various life factors.

The quest for a perfect smile is a journey deeply woven into the fabric of human desire, one that transcends mere aesthetics to touch upon realms of confidence, self-expression, and even health. For many adults, the decision to embark on orthodontic treatment isn't just about aligning teeth; it's a profound step toward personal transformation and reclaiming a sense of youthful vitality. The desire for improved aesthetics in one's smile is often rooted in a complex tapestry of motivations—each thread representing an aspect of life where a more appealing grin can make a significant difference.

Firstly, there's the undeniable impact on self-confidence. Proper oral hygiene is crucial during orthodontic treatment **Early orthodontic intervention** physician. A crooked tooth or an uneven bite can be a source of self-consciousness, leading individuals to hide their smiles, avoid certain social situations, or feel less than fully present in professional settings. Orthodontic treatment offers not just a cosmetic correction but a

pathway to greater comfort in social interactions. When adults regain confidence in their appearance, it ripples outward, influencing how they engage with the world and perceive themselves.

Moreover, this pursuit is deeply connected to the broader narrative of aging gracefully. As we age, our faces change; facial structures shift, and sometimes our teeth don't align as perfectly as they once did. An orthodontically aligned smile can counteract some of these natural changes, offering a refreshed look that many associate with youthfulness.

Reasons Adults Seek Orthodontic Treatment – space

1. natural rubber
2. crossbite
3. medicine

This isn't merely vanity; it's about feeling vibrant and relevant in an ever-evolving society that often equates physical appearance with vitality and success.

Additionally, there's the psychological aspect—how our smiles influence our mental well-being. Research has shown links between dental aesthetics and self-esteem. When adults invest in improving their smile through orthodontics, they often experience enhanced mood and reduced anxiety related to their appearance. This emotional uplift can have far-reaching effects on daily life, from personal relationships to professional endeavors.

Finally, let's not overlook the role societal expectations play in this desire for aesthetic improvement. In an era heavily influenced by social media where polished images dominate feeds, there's pressure to present an idealized version of oneself online—and that includes having an attractive smile. While this external pressure should never overshadow personal motivations for seeking treatment, it cannot be ignored as one factor influencing adult decisions regarding orthodontic care.

In essence, the desire for improved aesthetics through orthodontic treatment among adults is multifaceted—a blend of personal empowerment, psychological well-being enhancement, societal influences, and a genuine wish to reflect one's best self in both personal and professional spheres. It's about more than just straightening teeth; it's about reclaiming joy in everyday moments through the simple act of smiling freely—an expression universally recognized as one of humanity's most beautiful gestures.

****Boosting Self-Confidence**:**

Orthodontic treatment can significantly improve an adult's self-esteem and confidence by correcting dental imperfections, leading to a more positive self-image and better social interactions.

- ****Desire for Improved Aesthetics****: Many adults seek orthodontic treatment to enhance the appearance of their smile, addressing concerns such as crooked teeth, gaps, or overbites that may have persisted from childhood or developed due to various life factors.
- ****Boosting Self-Confidence****: Orthodontic treatment can significantly improve an adult's self-esteem and confidence by correcting dental imperfections, leading to a more positive self-image and better social interactions.
- ****Enhancing Oral Health****: Proper alignment of teeth through orthodontic treatment can improve oral hygiene by making it easier to clean teeth effectively, thereby reducing the risk of cavities and gum disease that may have been challenging to manage in misaligned dentitions.
- ****Addressing Chronic Dental Issues****: Adults may seek orthodontics to resolve long-standing dental problems such as bite issues (overbites, underbites, crossbites) that can lead to jaw pain, headaches, and digestive difficulties if left untreated.
- ****Correcting Speech Impediments****: Misaligned teeth or jaw structures can contribute to speech difficulties; orthodontic treatment can correct these issues, improving articulation and overall communication skills.
- ****Preventive Measures Against Tooth Wear****: Properly aligned teeth are less prone to excessive wear and tear; adults may pursue orthodontic treatment to prevent premature tooth degradation and associated costs of restorative dentistry.
- ****Facilitating Better Chewing Efficiency****: Orthodontic treatment can improve bite function and alignment, allowing for more efficient chewing which is crucial for digestion and overall nutritional health in adulthood.

Orthodontic treatment, often perceived primarily through the lens of aesthetic improvements, plays a profoundly transformative role in boosting self-confidence among

adults, touching upon deeper psychological and social dimensions. The journey toward a straighter smile is layered with motivations that extend beyond mere dental correction; it's about reclaiming a part of oneself that has long been overlooked or critiqued, leading to profound shifts in self-perception and interaction with the world.

For many adults, the decision to embark on orthodontic treatment stems from a yearning for self-improvement, fueled by the realization that our smiles—often one of the first things people notice—can significantly influence how we feel about ourselves and how others perceive us. Dental imperfections, whether they manifest as crooked teeth, gaps, or misalignments, can become silent critics in our minds, whispering doubts about our appearance and contributing to feelings of insecurity. Addressing these concerns through orthodontics isn't merely about achieving physical perfection; it's about correcting an imbalance that has subtly but consistently chipped away at one's self-esteem.

The impact of improved dental aesthetics on self-confidence is undeniable. As adult patients begin to see tangible changes in their smiles, often accompanied by enhanced comfort in eating and speaking, there's a palpable shift in their demeanor. This newfound confidence isn't just superficial; it permeates various facets of life. Social interactions become more engaging as individuals feel freer to smile openly without reservation. The confidence gained from orthodontic treatment can lead to improved professional presence; in meetings and presentations, adults may find themselves projecting more assurance, leveraging their revitalized smile as a subtle yet powerful tool for personal branding and connectivity.

Moreover, this journey towards better oral health often coincides with broader lifestyle changes. Adults seeking orthodontic care are frequently motivated by holistic views of wellness—understanding that oral health is intrinsically linked to overall health.

Reasons Adults Seek Orthodontic Treatment – thumb

1. space
2. wire
3. thumb

This awareness fosters a mindset geared towards improvement across multiple dimensions of life: diet, exercise, mental health practices—a ripple effect emanating from the simple act of taking care of one's teeth and gums.

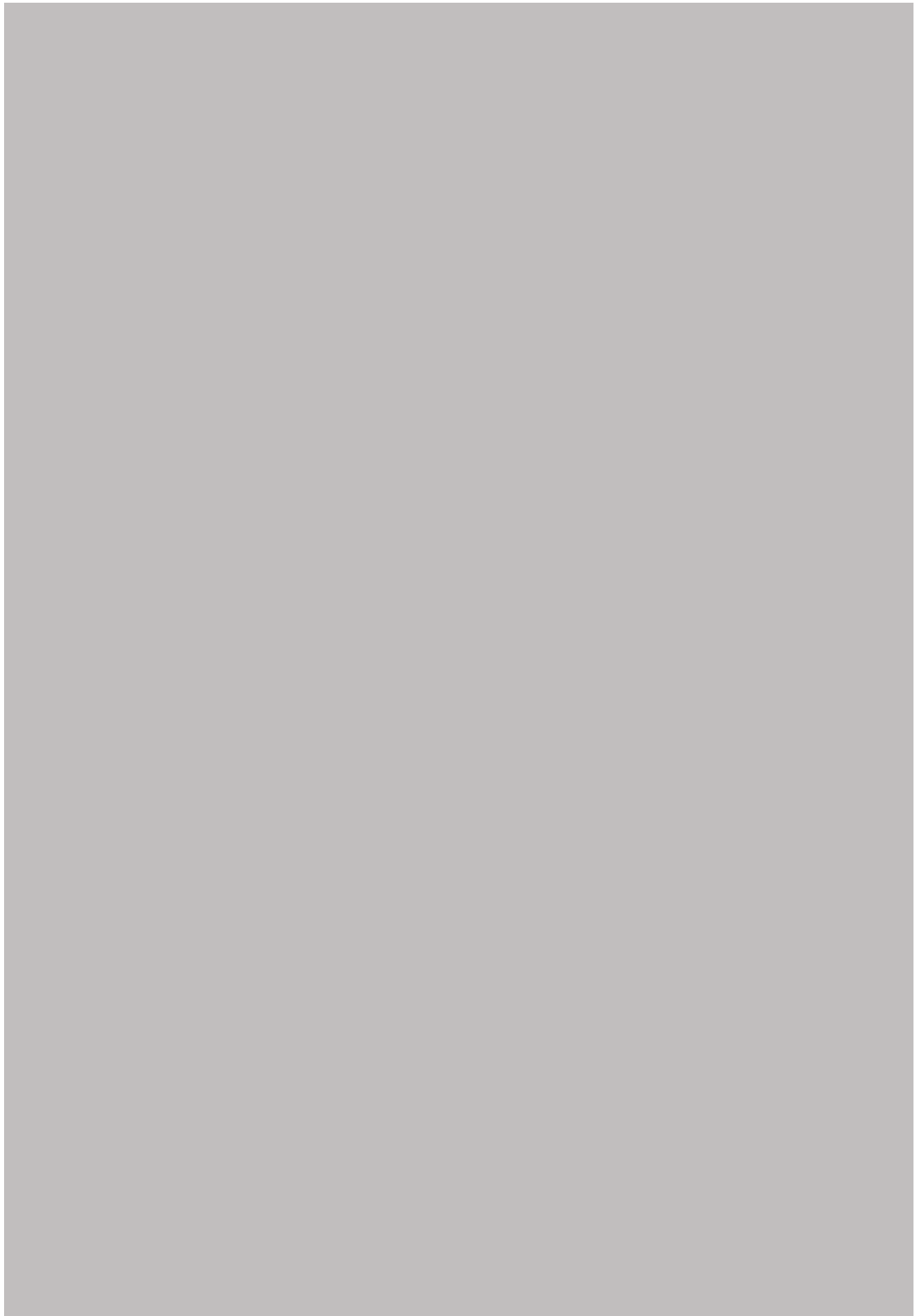
The psychological boost from orthodontic treatment also touches on deeper emotional needs—acceptance, validation, and the pursuit of personal happiness. For some adults, achieving a straighter smile fulfills a long-held desire for change they've perhaps suppressed due to cost considerations or societal pressures regarding age and beauty standards. It represents not just an alteration of physical appearance but a bold statement: "I value myself enough to make this change."

In essence, while orthodontic treatment undoubtedly enhances physical appearance by correcting dental imperfections, its true magic lies in its power to bolster self-confidence—a cornerstone for personal growth and fulfilling social interactions. Adults who choose this path are not merely fixing their smiles; they're embarking on a transformative journey towards greater self-assurance and authenticity in an often critical world. Through this process, they rediscover parts of themselves previously overshadowed by insecurities—ultimately emerging more vibrant and empowered versions of who they truly are.

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****Enhancing Oral Health**:**

Proper alignment of teeth

through orthodontic treatment

can improve oral hygiene by

making it easier to clean teeth effectively, thereby reducing the risk of cavities and gum disease that may have been challenging to manage in misaligned dentitions.

The journey to enhancing oral health often intertwines with the pursuit of a confident smile, and for many adults, the decision to seek orthodontic treatment is rooted in a variety of compelling reasons that extend beyond mere aesthetics. While it might seem that orthodontics is primarily about straightening teeth for a picture-perfect grin, the benefits run much deeper, particularly when considering the profound impact on overall oral hygiene and health.

One of the primary motivations for adults to embark on orthodontic journeys is the significant improvement in oral hygiene that proper tooth alignment can bring. When teeth are crowded or misaligned, creating tight spaces and awkward angles, it becomes a challenge to maintain effective cleaning routines. Food particles can easily lodge in these hard-to-reach areas, becoming breeding grounds for bacteria. This scenario not only heightens the risk of cavities but also increases susceptibility to gum disease—a condition that can lead to more serious health issues if left unchecked. By aligning teeth through treatments like braces or clear aligners,

individuals make it easier to brush and floss effectively, thus reducing these risks substantially.

Moreover, orthodontic treatment addresses functional concerns that can quietly impact one's quality of life. Misaligned teeth and jaws can lead to improper bites, causing discomfort during eating and speaking. Over time, these issues may contribute to jaw pain and even headaches. Correcting alignment not only enhances comfort but also promotes healthier chewing habits, which are essential for digestion and overall well-being.

Additionally, there's a psychological aspect that cannot be overlooked—the profound effect a straighter smile can have on one's self-esteem and confidence. For many adults, feeling good about their appearance is tied closely to how they perceive themselves in social settings. Orthodontic treatment offers not just a physical transformation but also an emotional boost that encourages individuals to engage more openly and confidently with the world around them.

It's also worth noting that modern orthodontic options cater specifically to adult lifestyles and preferences. From discreet clear aligners that fit comfortably over the teeth without drawing attention to traditional braces suited for those who prefer a more established approach, today's treatments offer flexibility tailored to individual needs and lifestyles. This accessibility broadens the appeal of orthodontic care beyond youthful aspirations into a realm where health, comfort, and confidence intersect for adults at any stage of life.

In conclusion, while societal pressures might suggest orthodontic treatment is primarily about achieving an ideal smile, its benefits are deeply rooted in practical dental health improvements—especially concerning oral hygiene—and holistic wellness for adults. The decision to pursue orthodontics reflects a commitment not just to aesthetics but also to ensuring long-term oral health and enhancing quality of life through improved function and confidence. As we navigate our lives with smiles that are both healthier and more radiant thanks to proper alignment, we uncover yet another layer of why enhancing oral health through orthodontic treatment resonates so profoundly among adults today.

****Addressing Chronic Dental Issues**:** Adults may seek orthodontics to resolve long-standing dental problems such as bite issues (overbites, underbites, crossbites) that can lead to jaw pain, headaches, and digestive difficulties if left untreated.

In the bustling rhythm of adult life, where responsibilities and stressors often take center stage, the importance of dental health can easily slip into the background. Yet, for many adults, the journey towards a healthier smile isn't just about aesthetics; it's a crucial step in resolving long-standing dental issues that have silently impacted their quality of life. Among these issues, chronic dental problems like bite discrepancies—overbites, underbites, and crossbites—stand out as particularly significant reasons why adults increasingly turn to orthodontic treatment. These conditions, often overlooked or dismissed in youth, can evolve into sources of discomfort and broader health concerns if not addressed timely and effectively.

The repercussions of untreated bite issues extend far beyond mere cosmetic concerns. Imagine biting into your favorite meal only to wince with pain or finding yourself frequently plagued by headaches that seem to originate from your jaw. These are common realities for those grappling with misaligned bites. Over time, such conditions can strain the jaw muscles and lead to temporomandibular joint disorders (TMD), causing discomfort not only while eating but also during speaking and even resting. The cascading effects might surprise many: chronic headaches, neck aches, and even digestive difficulties can be linked back to unresolved orthodontic issues. Chewing inefficiency due to poor bite alignment can disrupt digestion, leading to further health implications that ripple through overall wellness.

Moreover, the psychological impact should not be understated. A misaligned bite can affect one's self-esteem and social interactions. Smiling wide or laughing openly might become something avoided due to discomfort or self-consciousness about one's teeth appearance. This emotional toll adds another layer of urgency for seeking orthodontic solutions—a path not just toward physical relief but also toward reclaiming confidence in personal interactions.

Thankfully, advancements in orthodontic technology and methodologies have made it easier than ever for adults to seek treatment tailored to their unique situations and lifestyles. From inconspicuous aligners that fit comfortably over teeth without the bulky wires of traditional braces to accelerated treatment options designed with busy adults in mind, the toolkit for addressing these chronic dental issues is more diverse and patient-friendly than ever before.

Furthermore, the professional expertise available today ensures treatments are not only effective but also considerate of an adult's specific needs—balancing efficiency with comfort to minimize disruption to daily routines.

In conclusion, the decision for adults to pursue orthodontic treatment isn't merely about achieving a straighter smile; it's a holistic approach toward resolving chronic dental issues that intrude on daily life and overall health. By tackling problems like overbites, underbites, and crossbites head-on through modern orthodontics, adults pave the way for improved functionality—eating comfortably without pain—and enhanced well-being—free from persistent headaches and digestive troubles. More importantly, they reclaim their smiles with renewed confidence—a reminder that it's never too late to prioritize one's health and happiness through addressing these often-overlooked yet profoundly impactful dental challenges.

****Correcting Speech**

Impediments:** Misaligned teeth or jaw structures can contribute to speech difficulties; orthodontic treatment can correct these issues, improving

articulation and overall communication skills.

The journey toward a confident smile and clearer speech isn't exclusive to the youth; adults, too, embark on this transformative path for numerous compelling reasons, one of which is the correction of speech impediments. As we navigate through life, the dynamics of our oral health and its impact on our communication can evolve in ways that sometimes necessitate a second look at orthodontic care. Misaligned teeth or irregularities in jaw structure aren't just concerns for aesthetic reasons; they can significantly hinder articulation, affecting how we express ourselves and how we are perceived by others.

For many adults, the realization that misaligned teeth or jaw issues are contributing to their speech difficulties can be a pivotal moment. The subtle clicks, whistles, or even complete distortions of certain sounds can erode confidence during conversations, professional presentations, or social interactions. This realization often propels individuals to seek orthodontic treatment not merely for cosmetic enhancement but as a means to achieve clearer communication—a fundamental aspect of human connection.

Orthodontic interventions in adulthood offer more than just straighter teeth; they provide an opportunity to refine speech patterns that may have been compromised since childhood or even adolescence. By correcting misalignments, adults can experience a remarkable improvement in their ability to articulate complex thoughts and emotions with greater clarity and ease. This transformation doesn't only boost self-esteem but also enhances professional interactions and personal relationships by facilitating better understanding and engagement.

Moreover, the advent of modern orthodontic technologies has made this journey more accessible and comfortable for adults than ever before. Clear aligners, discreet braces, and tailored treatment plans cater specifically to the needs and lifestyles of grown-ups seeking these improvements. These advancements ensure that addressing speech impediments through orthodontics is not only effective but also seamlessly integrated into one's life without significant disruption.

In essence, adults seeking orthodontic treatment for correcting speech impediments are taking proactive steps toward enhancing their quality of life. It's about reclaiming the fluidity of communication that allows them to connect deeply with others without the shadow of self-consciousness hanging over their words. This pursuit underscores a broader truth: it's never too late to address physical imperfections that affect our well-being and self-expression—an affirmation that resonates profoundly within those who dare to take this empowering step forward.

****Preventive Measures Against
Tooth Wear**
Properly aligned
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wear and tear; adults may**

pursue orthodontic treatment to prevent premature tooth degradation and associated costs of restorative dentistry.

Tooth wear, often an unseen yet significant concern for many adults, unfolds gradually over the years, influenced by a myriad of factors ranging from daily habits to underlying dental issues. The quest to maintain a healthy, functional smile well into one's later years has propelled an increasing number of adults towards orthodontic treatment, not merely as a cosmetic choice but as a proactive strategy against tooth wear and its associated complications. Let's delve into why properly aligned teeth are pivotal in this preventive measure and how orthodontic interventions can serve as a shield against premature tooth degradation.

Firstly, the alignment of our teeth plays a crucial role in how we chew and distribute the forces exerted during eating. Misaligned teeth can lead to uneven pressure distribution across the dental arch. Picture this: when your teeth aren't aligned correctly, some might bear more than their fair share of the biting and grinding load during meals. This disproportionate stress accelerates enamel erosion—the protective outer layer of our teeth—making them more susceptible to wear over time. By correcting these alignments through orthodontics, individuals not only enhance their smile aesthetics but also ensure that their teeth endure the daily rigors of chewing more evenly and efficiently, thereby mitigating excessive wear.

Moreover, orthodontic treatment addresses bite issues that can exacerbate tooth wear. Overbites, underbites, crossbites—each misalignment can cause certain teeth to contact each other in ways they shouldn't during normal function. This abnormal interaction leads to increased friction and pressure on specific tooth surfaces, hastening the degradation process. Orthodontics aims to harmonize these interactions, promoting healthier occlusion—a term dentists use for the way upper and lower teeth fit together when biting or chewing—and significantly reducing undue stress on individual teeth.

Beyond just preventing wear, orthodontic treatments contribute to overall oral health by making cleaning easier and more effective. When teeth are crowded or misaligned, it creates nooks and crannies where food particles can become trapped, fostering bacterial growth and increasing the risk of cavities and gum disease—additional enemies of tooth longevity. Straighter teeth mean less hiding space for plaque and debris, facilitating better hygiene practices that further safeguard against tooth decay and periodontal issues contributing to premature tooth loss or degradation.

Additionally, let's consider the psychological aspect tied to smiling confidently without fear of revealing signs of aging or neglect in one's dental health. Orthodontic treatments offer not just functional benefits but also boost self-esteem by enhancing facial aesthetics and providing a youthful appearance that many adults seek as they age gracefully. A confident smile is often linked with better mental health outcomes—a valuable asset indeed in today's fast-paced world where first impressions matter significantly.

In conclusion, adults pursue orthodontic treatment not just for aesthetic reasons but primarily as a preventive measure against tooth wear—a silent yet relentless process influenced by various factors including improper alignment of teeth. By opting for braces or invisible aligners among other options available today, adults invest in long-term dental health strategies that promise not only robust function but also enduring beauty in their smiles. In doing so, they take proactive steps toward preserving their natural dentition against premature degradation while enhancing their overall quality of life—a testament to how integrating oral health with holistic wellness is increasingly becoming a hallmark of mature living.

****Facilitating Better Chewing Efficiency**
Orthodontic treatment can improve bite function and alignment, allowing for more efficient chewing which is crucial for digestion and overall nutritional health in adulthood.**

Orthodontic treatment, often associated with the teenage years and the quest for a perfect smile, plays a surprisingly pivotal role in the lives of adults, particularly when we delve into its impact on

chewing efficiency. For many adults, the decision to embark on orthodontic treatment isn't primarily driven by aesthetics—it's about functionality, health, and the everyday realities of adult life. Let's unpack why improving chewing efficiency through orthodontics becomes a significant consideration for many as they navigate adulthood.

Firstly, let's consider the fundamental role of efficient chewing in our daily lives. Chewing is more than just a mechanical process; it's an integral part of digestion that starts in the mouth. Proper mastication breaks down food into manageable sizes and mixes it with saliva, initiating enzymatic digestion. When bite alignment is off—due to misaligned teeth or jaw discrepancies—the process becomes less efficient. This can lead to discomfort while eating, necessitating more effort to chew foods properly, and even causing indigestion or nutritional deficiencies over time if certain foods become too challenging to consume comfortably.

For adults juggling busy schedules, family commitments, and personal health goals, maintaining optimal digestive health is crucial. Efficient chewing not only aids in breaking down food effectively but also ensures that nutrients are better absorbed by the body. This connection between oral health and overall well-being cannot be overstated; poor chewing efficiency might subtly contribute to broader health issues down the line, affecting everything from energy levels to immune function.

Moreover, orthodontic treatment tailored towards enhancing chewing efficiency addresses aesthetic concerns indirectly but significantly impacts self-confidence and mental well-being. Adults who feel self-conscious about their smiles or experience discomfort while eating might avoid social situations involving food or feel less enthusiastic about dining out—activities that enrich our lives socially and culturally. Correcting bite issues can alleviate these concerns, allowing individuals to engage more fully in social interactions centered around food without hesitation or discomfort.

Additionally, considering the long-term benefits of orthodontic treatment in adults extends beyond immediate comfort and aesthetics; it contributes positively to dental hygiene practices. Properly aligned teeth are easier to clean thoroughly, reducing the risk of cavities and gum disease—conditions that can arise when food particles lodge in hard-to-reach areas due to misalignment or crowding. By fostering an environment where oral hygiene is simplified, orthodontic care indirectly supports overall systemic health by mitigating risks associated with periodontal disease and other chronic conditions linked to poor oral health.

In essence, seeking orthodontic treatment as an adult isn't merely about achieving a straighter smile; it's about reclaiming comfort during meals, enhancing digestive capabilities for better nutritional intake, boosting confidence in social settings revolving around food, and committing to long-term dental health. The ripple effects of improved chewing efficiency touch multiple facets of adult life—healthier digestion promoting energy levels and vitality; enhanced nutrition contributing positively to overall wellness; greater confidence allowing for richer social experiences; all culminating in a higher quality of life that aligns with modern adults' holistic approach to wellness.

In recognizing these multifaceted benefits tied to something as seemingly simple as having efficiently functioning bites and jaws through orthodontic care underscores how integral such treatments are for many adults navigating their mid-life journeys with purpose—and perfectly aligned teeth certainly doesn't hurt along the way.

Title: Adapting to Changes Post-Adolescence: Why Adults Embrace Orthodontic Treatment

As we stride through the threshold from adolescence into adulthood, many of us carry with us the memories—sometimes fond, sometimes fraught—of orthodontic experiences from our younger years. Braces, retainers, and the jaunty charm of childhood smiles shaped by metal and wire are part of a rite of passage for countless individuals. However, as time marches on, many adults find themselves reflecting not just on those past treatments but also on how their dental needs have evolved far beyond the straightening of teenaged teeth. This realization underscores a significant

shift in perspective: orthodontic treatment is no longer seen merely as a youthful correction but as a vital component of lifelong dental health and personal aesthetics.

Reasons Adults Seek Orthodontic Treatment – space

1. adolescence
2. Michigan
3. orthodontics

The journey into adulthood brings with it an array of changes—professional, emotional, physical—that inevitably impact our oral health landscape. For one, the stresses of daily life can take their toll on our teeth and gums in ways we didn't encounter as adolescents. From grinding habits exacerbated by stress to dietary choices that might be less than ideal over time, these factors contribute to conditions like tooth wear, misalignment, or gaps that weren't present—or were corrected—in our youth. Moreover, the natural aging process can lead to issues such as gum recession or bite problems that necessitate attention beyond what was addressed during orthodontic treatments designed for growing juveniles.

Advancements in orthodontic technology have revolutionized how adults approach these concerns. Gone are the days when braces were synonymous with bulky metal appliances that screamed "I'm a teenager." Today's options are remarkably discreet; clear aligners like Invisalign offer an almost invisible means to correct malocclusions and straighten teeth without drawing unwanted attention. These modern solutions cater specifically to adult patients seeking improvements not only in alignment but also in enhancing overall dental aesthetics—a boost to confidence that resonates deeply in both personal and professional spheres.

Furthermore, adults often come to orthodontic treatment motivated by holistic considerations of oral health rather than mere cosmetic desires. Proper alignment isn't just about looks; it's integral

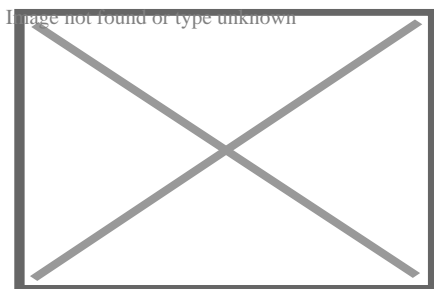
to maintaining good oral hygiene practices, reducing the risk of gum disease, and ensuring long-term dental health. The ability to chew efficiently and comfortably is another crucial benefit that resonates with adults keenly aware of how their dietary habits affect their general well-being.

Moreover, there's an undeniable psychological element at play here too. In a society where appearances often hold significant weight—and where self-image can be deeply tied to one's smile—adults are increasingly recognizing orthodontics as a means not just to correct physical issues but also to improve their quality of life by boosting self-esteem and fostering greater social confidence. The subtle yet profound impact this has on personal relationships and professional interactions cannot be understated; it's about feeling empowered to present oneself authentically in an era where first impressions often begin with a smile.

In embracing orthodontic treatment post-adolescence, adults navigate more than just a path toward straighter teeth; they embark on a journey toward reclaiming control over their dental destiny—a destiny shaped by evolving needs and informed by technological advancements tailored explicitly for them. It's about adapting not just physically but psychologically as well, fitting seamlessly into this new phase of life with tools that ensure both function and form align

About child

"Children" and "Childhood" redirect here. For other uses, see [Child \(disambiguation\)](#), [Children \(disambiguation\)](#), and [Childhood \(disambiguation\)](#).

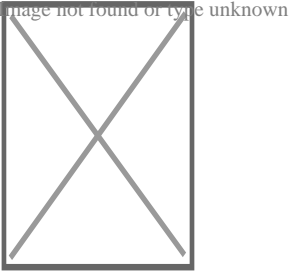


International children in traditional clothing at Liberty Weekend

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Part of a series on

Human growth and development



Stages

- Gamete
- Zygote
- Embryo
- Fetus
- Infant
- Toddler
- Child
- Preadolescent
- Adolescent
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- Young adult
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Developmental stage theories

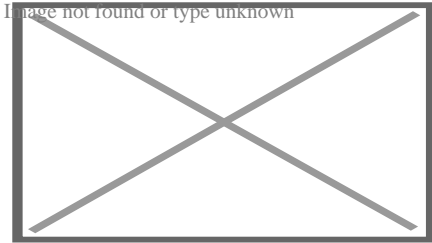
- Attachment
- Ecological
- Psychosocial
- Psychosexual development
- Moral
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- Evolutionary
-  Psychology portal

A **child** (pl. **children**) is a human being between the stages of birth and puberty,^{[1][2]} or between the developmental period of infancy and puberty.^[3] The term may also refer to an unborn human being.^{[4][5]} In English-speaking countries, the legal definition of *child* generally refers to a minor, in this case as a person younger than the local age of majority (there are exceptions like, for example, the consume and purchase of alcoholic beverage even after said age of majority^[6]), regardless of their physical, mental and sexual development as biological adults.^{[1][7][8]} Children generally have fewer rights and responsibilities than adults. They are generally classed as unable to make serious decisions.

Child may also describe a relationship with a parent (such as sons and daughters of any age)^[9] or, metaphorically, an authority figure, or signify group membership in a clan, tribe, or religion; it can also signify being strongly affected by a specific time, place, or circumstance, as in "a child of nature" or "a child of the Sixties."^[10]

Biological, legal and social definitions

[edit]



Children playing ball games, Roman artwork, 2nd century AD

In the biological sciences, a child is usually defined as a person between birth and puberty,^[1]^[2] or between the developmental period of infancy and puberty.^[3] Legally, the term *child* may refer to anyone below the age of majority or some other age limit.

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child defines *child* as, "A human being below the age of 18 years unless under the law applicable to the child, majority is attained earlier."^[11] This is ratified by 192 of 194 member countries. The term *child* may also refer to someone below another legally defined age limit unconnected to the age of majority. In Singapore, for example, a *child* is legally defined as someone under the age of 14 under the "Children and Young Persons Act" whereas the age of majority is 21.^[12]^[13] In U.S. Immigration Law, a child refers to anyone who is under the age of 21.^[14]

Some English definitions of the word *child* include the fetus (sometimes termed *the unborn*).^[15] In many cultures, a child is considered an adult after undergoing a rite of passage, which may or may not correspond to the time of puberty.

Children generally have fewer rights than adults and are classed as unable to make serious decisions, and legally must always be under the care of a responsible adult or child custody, whether their parents divorce or not.

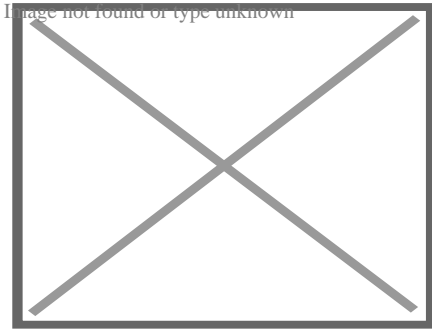
Developmental stages of childhood

[edit]

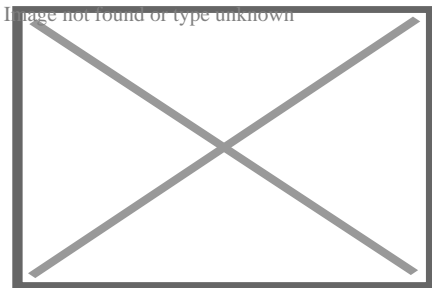
Further information: Child development stages and Child development

Early childhood

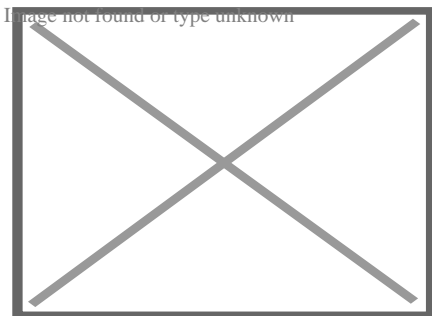
[edit]



Children playing the violin in a group recital, Ithaca, New York, 2011



Children in Madagascar, 2011



Child playing piano, 1984

Early childhood follows the infancy stage and begins with toddlerhood when the child begins speaking or taking steps independently.^[16]^[17] While toddlerhood ends around age 3 when the child becomes less dependent on parental assistance for basic needs, early childhood continues approximately until the age of 5 or 6. However, according to the National Association for the Education of Young Children, early childhood also includes infancy. At this stage children are learning through observing, experimenting and communicating with others. Adults supervise and support the development process of the child, which then will lead to the child's autonomy. Also during this stage, a strong

emotional bond is created between the child and the care providers. The children also start preschool and kindergarten at this age: and hence their social lives.

Middle childhood

[edit]

Middle childhood begins at around age 7, and ends at around age 9 or 10.^[18] Together, early and middle childhood are called formative years. In this middle period, children develop socially and mentally. They are at a stage where they make new friends and gain new skills, which will enable them to become more independent and enhance their individuality. During middle childhood, children enter the school years, where they are presented with a different setting than they are used to. This new setting creates new challenges and faces for children.^[19] Upon the entrance of school, mental disorders that would normally not be noticed come to light. Many of these disorders include: autism, dyslexia, dyscalculia, and ADHD.^[20] Special education, least restrictive environment, response to intervention and individualized education plans are all specialized plans to help children with disabilities.^[20]

Middle childhood is the time when children begin to understand responsibility and are beginning to be shaped by their peers and parents. Chores and more responsible decisions come at this time, as do social comparison and social play.^[20] During social play, children learn from and teach each other, often through observation.^[21]

Late childhood

[edit]

Main article: Preadolescence

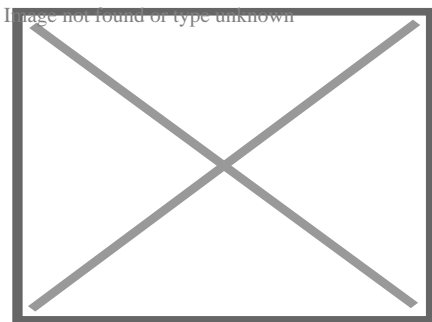
Preadolescence is a stage of human development following early childhood and preceding adolescence. Preadolescence is commonly defined as ages 9–12, ending with the major onset of puberty, with markers such as menarche, spermarche, and the peak of height velocity occurring. These changes usually occur between ages 11 and 14. It may also be defined as the 2-year period before the major onset of puberty.^[22] Preadolescence can bring its own challenges and anxieties. Preadolescent children have a different view of the world from younger children in many significant ways. Typically, theirs is a more realistic view of life than the intense, fantasy-oriented world of earliest childhood. Preadolescents have more mature, sensible, realistic thoughts and actions: 'the most "sensible" stage of development...the child is a much *less emotional being* now.'^[23] Preadolescents may well view human relationships differently (e.g. they may notice the flawed, human side of authority figures). Alongside that, they may begin to develop a sense of self-identity, and to have increased feelings of independence: 'may feel an individual, no longer "just one of the family."^[24]

Developmental stages post-childhood

[edit]

Adolescence

[edit]



An adolescent girl, photographed by Paolo Monti

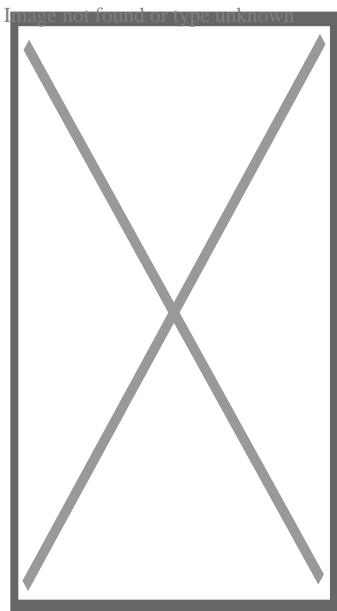
Adolescence is usually determined to be between the onset of puberty and legal adulthood: mostly corresponding to the teenage years (13–19). However, puberty usually

begins before the teenage years (10–11 for girls and 11–12 for boys). Although biologically a child is a human being between the stages of birth and puberty,^{[1][2]} adolescents are legally considered children, as they tend to lack adult rights and are still required to attend compulsory schooling in many cultures, though this varies. The onset of adolescence brings about various physical, psychological and behavioral changes. The end of adolescence and the beginning of adulthood varies by country and by function, and even within a single nation–state or culture there may be different ages at which an individual is considered to be mature enough to be entrusted by society with certain tasks.

History

[edit]

Main article: History of childhood

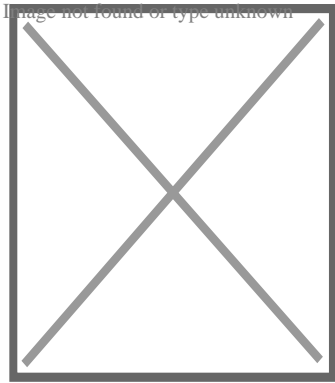


Playing Children, by Song dynasty Chinese artist Su Hanchen, c. 1150 AD.

During the European Renaissance, artistic depictions of children increased dramatically, which did not have much effect on the social attitude toward children, however.^[25]

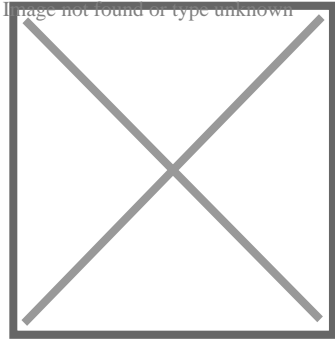
The French historian Philippe Ariès argued that during the 1600s, the concept of childhood began to emerge in Europe,^[26] however other historians like Nicholas Orme

have challenged this view and argued that childhood has been seen as a separate stage since at least the medieval period.^[27] Adults saw children as separate beings, innocent and in need of protection and training by the adults around them. The English philosopher John Locke was particularly influential in defining this new attitude towards children, especially with regard to his theory of the *tabula rasa*, which considered the mind at birth to be a "blank slate". A corollary of this doctrine was that the mind of the child was born blank, and that it was the duty of the parents to imbue the child with correct notions. During the early period of capitalism, the rise of a large, commercial middle class, mainly in the Protestant countries of the Dutch Republic and England, brought about a new family ideology centred around the upbringing of children. Puritanism stressed the importance of individual salvation and concern for the spiritual welfare of children.^[28]



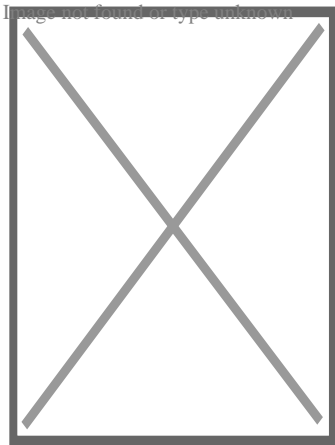
The Age of Innocence c. 1785/8. Reynolds emphasized the natural grace of children in his paintings.

The modern notion of childhood with its own autonomy and goals began to emerge during the 18th-century Enlightenment and the Romantic period that followed it.^[29]^[30] Jean Jacques Rousseau formulated the romantic attitude towards children in his famous 1762 novel *Emile: or, On Education*. Building on the ideas of John Locke and other 17th-century thinkers, Jean-Jaques Rousseau described childhood as a brief period of sanctuary before people encounter the perils and hardships of adulthood.^[29] Sir Joshua Reynolds' extensive children portraiture demonstrated the new enlightened attitudes toward young children. His 1788 painting *The Age of Innocence* emphasizes the innocence and natural grace of the posing child and soon became a public favourite.^[31]



Brazilian princesses Leopoldina (left) and Isabel (center) with an unidentified friend, c. 1860.

The idea of childhood as a locus of divinity, purity, and innocence is further expounded upon in William Wordsworth's "Ode: Intimations of Immortality from Recollections of Early Childhood", the imagery of which he "fashioned from a complex mix of pastoral aesthetics, pantheistic views of divinity, and an idea of spiritual purity based on an Edenic notion of pastoral innocence infused with Neoplatonic notions of reincarnation".^[30] This Romantic conception of childhood, historian Margaret Reeves suggests, has a longer history than generally recognized, with its roots traceable to similarly imaginative constructions of childhood circulating, for example, in the neo-platonic poetry of seventeenth-century metaphysical poet Henry Vaughan (e.g., "The Retreat", 1650; "Childe-hood", 1655). Such views contrasted with the stridently didactic, Calvinist views of infant depravity.^[32]



Armenian scouts in 1918

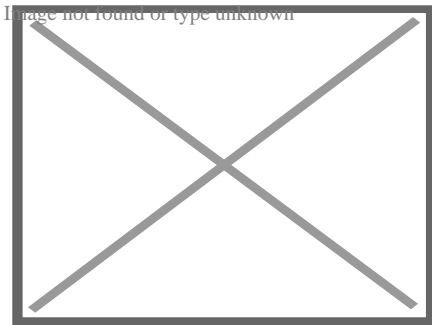
With the onset of industrialisation in England in 1760, the divergence between high-minded romantic ideals of childhood and the reality of the growing magnitude of child

exploitation in the workplace, became increasingly apparent. By the late 18th century, British children were specially employed in factories and mines and as chimney sweeps, [33] often working long hours in dangerous jobs for low pay.[34] As the century wore on, the contradiction between the conditions on the ground for poor children and the middle-class notion of childhood as a time of simplicity and innocence led to the first campaigns for the imposition of legal protection for children.

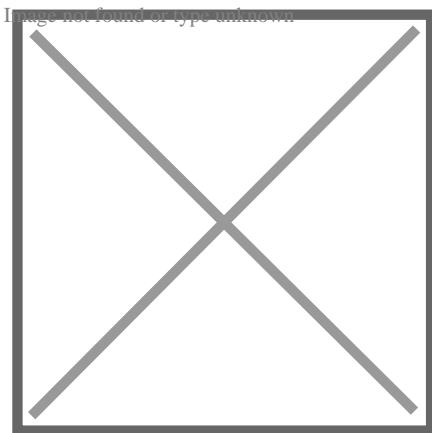
British reformers attacked child labor from the 1830s onward, bolstered by the horrific descriptions of London street life by Charles Dickens.[35] The campaign eventually led to the Factory Acts, which mitigated the exploitation of children at the workplace [33][36]

Modern concepts of childhood

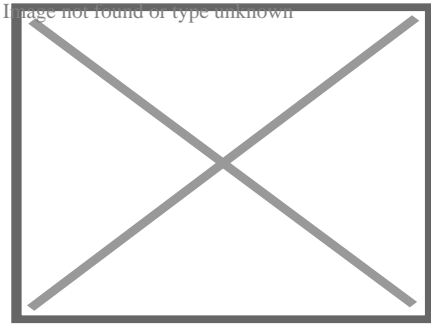
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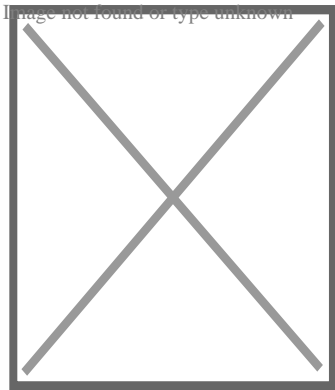
Children play in a fountain in a summer evening, Davis, California.



An old man and his granddaughter in Turkey.



Nepalese children playing with cats.



Harari girls in Ethiopia.

The modern attitude to children emerged by the late 19th century; the Victorian middle and upper classes emphasized the role of the family and the sanctity of the child – an attitude that has remained dominant in Western societies ever since.^[37] The genre of children's literature took off, with a proliferation of humorous, child-oriented books attuned to the child's imagination. Lewis Carroll's fantasy *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, published in 1865 in England, was a landmark in the genre; regarded as the first "English masterpiece written for children", its publication opened the "First Golden Age" of children's literature.

The latter half of the 19th century saw the introduction of compulsory state schooling of children across Europe, which decisively removed children from the workplace into schools.^{[38][39]}

The market economy of the 19th century enabled the concept of childhood as a time of fun, happiness, and imagination. Factory-made dolls and doll houses delighted the girls and organized sports and activities were played by the boys.^[40] The Boy Scouts was

founded by Sir Robert Baden-Powell in 1908,^{[41][42]} which provided young boys with outdoor activities aiming at developing character, citizenship, and personal fitness qualities.^[43]

In the 20th century, Philippe Ariès, a French historian specializing in medieval history, suggested that childhood was not a natural phenomenon, but a creation of society in his 1960 book *Centuries of Childhood*. In 1961 he published a study of paintings, gravestones, furniture, and school records, finding that before the 17th century, children were represented as mini-adults.

In 1966, the American philosopher George Boas published the book *The Cult of Childhood*. Since then, historians have increasingly researched childhood in past times.^[44]

In 2006, Hugh Cunningham published the book *Invention of Childhood*, looking at British childhood from the year 1000, the Middle Ages, to what he refers to as the Post War Period of the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s.^[45]

Childhood evolves and changes as lifestyles change and adult expectations alter. In the modern era, many adults believe that children should not have any worries or work, as life should be happy and trouble-free. Childhood is seen as a mixture of simplicity, innocence, happiness, fun, imagination, and wonder. It is thought of as a time of playing, learning, socializing, exploring, and worrying in a world without much adult interference.^{[29][30]}

A "loss of innocence" is a common concept, and is often seen as an integral part of coming of age. It is usually thought of as an experience or period in a child's life that widens their awareness of evil, pain or the world around them. This theme is demonstrated in the novels *To Kill a Mockingbird* and *Lord of the Flies*. The fictional character Peter Pan was the embodiment of a childhood that never ends.^{[46][47]}

Healthy childhoods

[edit]

Role of parents

[edit]

Main article: Parenting

Children's health

[edit]

Further information: Childhood obesity, Childhood immunizations, and List of childhood diseases

Children's health includes the physical, mental and social well-being of children.

Maintaining children's health implies offering them healthy foods, insuring they get enough sleep and exercise, and protecting their safety.^[48] Children in certain parts of the world often suffer from malnutrition, which is often associated with other conditions, such as diarrhea, pneumonia and malaria.^[49]

Child protection

[edit]

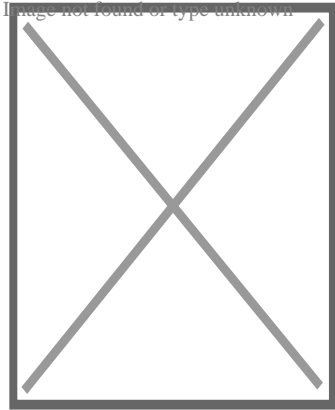
Further information: Child labor, Child labor laws, Risk aversion, Child abuse, and Protection of Children Act

Child protection, according to UNICEF, refers to "preventing and responding to violence, exploitation and abuse against children – including commercial sexual exploitation, trafficking, child labour and harmful traditional practices, such as female genital mutilation/cutting and child marriage".^[50] The Convention on the Rights of the Child protects the fundamental rights of children.

Play

[edit]

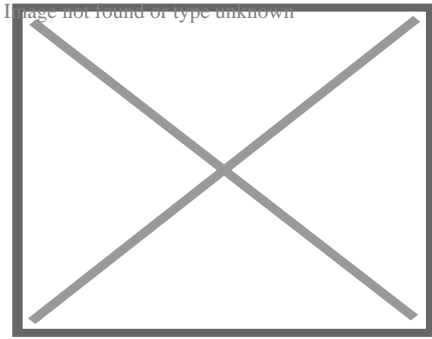
Further information: Play (activity), Playground, Imaginary friend, and Childhood secret club



Dancing at Mother of Peace AIDs orphanage, Zimbabwe

Play is essential to the cognitive, physical, social, and emotional well-being of children.^[51] It offers children opportunities for physical (running, jumping, climbing, etc.), intellectual (social skills, community norms, ethics and general knowledge) and emotional development (empathy, compassion, and friendships). Unstructured play encourages creativity and imagination. Playing and interacting with other children, as well as some adults, provides opportunities for friendships, social interactions, conflicts and resolutions. However, adults tend to (often mistakenly) assume that virtually all children's social activities can be understood as "play" and, furthermore, that children's play activities do not involve much skill or effort.^{[52][53][54][55]}

It is through play that children at a very early age engage and interact in the world around them. Play allows children to create and explore a world they can master, conquering their fears while practicing adult roles, sometimes in conjunction with other children or adult caregivers.^[51] Undirected play allows children to learn how to work in groups, to share, to negotiate, to resolve conflicts, and to learn self-advocacy skills. However, when play is controlled by adults, children acquiesce to adult rules and concerns and lose some of the benefits play offers them. This is especially true in developing creativity, leadership, and group skills.^[51]



Ralph Hedley, *The Tournament*, 1898. It depicts poorer boys playing outdoors in a rural part of the Northeast of England.

Play is considered to be very important to optimal child development that it has been recognized by the United Nations Commission on Human Rights as a right of every child.^[11] Children who are being raised in a hurried and pressured style may limit the protective benefits they would gain from child-driven play.^[51]

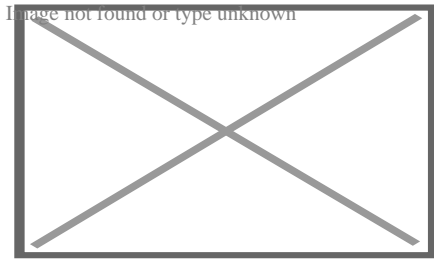
The initiation of play in a classroom setting allows teachers and students to interact through playfulness associated with a learning experience. Therefore, playfulness aids the interactions between adults and children in a learning environment. "Playful Structure" means to combine informal learning with formal learning to produce an effective learning experience for children at a young age.^[56]

Even though play is considered to be the most important to optimal child development, the environment affects their play and therefore their development. Poor children confront widespread environmental inequities as they experience less social support, and their parents are less responsive and more authoritarian. Children from low income families are less likely to have access to books and computers which would enhance their development.^[57]

Street culture

[edit]

Main articles: Children's street culture and Children's street games



Children in front of a movie theatre, Toronto, 1920s.

Children's street culture refers to the cumulative culture created by young children and is sometimes referred to as their *secret world*. It is most common in children between the ages of seven and twelve. It is strongest in urban working class industrial districts where children are traditionally free to play out in the streets for long periods without supervision. It is invented and largely sustained by children themselves with little adult interference.

Young children's street culture usually takes place on quiet backstreets and pavements, and along routes that venture out into local parks, playgrounds, scrub and wasteland, and to local shops. It often imposes imaginative status on certain sections of the urban realm (local buildings, kerbs, street objects, etc.). Children designate specific areas that serve as informal meeting and relaxation places (see: Sobel, 2001). An urban area that looks faceless or neglected to an adult may have deep 'spirit of place' meanings in to children. Since the advent of indoor distractions such as video games, and television, concerns have been expressed about the vitality – or even the survival – of children's street culture.

Geographies of childhood

[edit]

The geographies of childhood involves how (adult) society perceives the idea of childhood, the many ways adult attitudes and behaviors affect children's lives, including the environment which surrounds children and its implications.^[58]

The geographies of childhood is similar in some respects to children's geographies which examines the places and spaces in which children live.^[59]

Nature deficit disorder

[edit]

Main article: Nature deficit disorder

Nature Deficit Disorder, a term coined by Richard Louv in his 2005 book *Last Child in the Woods*, refers to the trend in the United States and Canada towards less time for outdoor play,^[60]^[61] resulting in a wide range of behavioral problems.^[62]

With increasing use of cellphones, computers, video games and television, children have more reasons to stay inside rather than outdoors exploring. "The average American child spends 44 hours a week with electronic media".^[63] Research in 2007 has drawn a correlation between the declining number of National Park visits in the U.S. and increasing consumption of electronic media by children.^[64] The media has accelerated the trend for children's nature disconnection by deemphasizing views of nature, as in Disney films.^[65]

Age of responsibility

[edit]

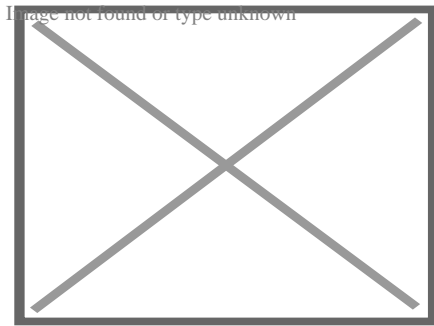
Further information: Age of consent, Age of majority, Age of criminal responsibility, and Marriageable age

The age at which children are considered responsible for their society-bound actions (e. g. marriage, voting, etc.) has also changed over time,^[66] and this is reflected in the way they are treated in courts of law. In Roman times, children were regarded as not culpable for crimes, a position later adopted by the Church. In the 19th century, children younger than seven years old were believed incapable of crime. Children from the age of seven forward were considered responsible for their actions. Therefore, they could face criminal charges, be sent to adult prison, and be punished like adults by whipping, branding or

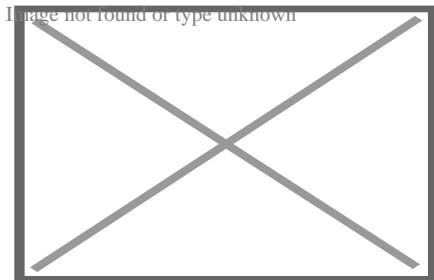
hanging. However, courts at the time would consider the offender's age when deliberating sentencing.^[*citation needed*] Minimum employment age and marriage age also vary. The age limit of voluntary/involuntary military service is also disputed at the international level.^[67]

Education

[edit]



Children in an outdoor classroom in Bié, Angola



Children seated in a Finnish classroom at the school of Torvinen in Sodankylä, Finland, in the 1920s

Main article: Education

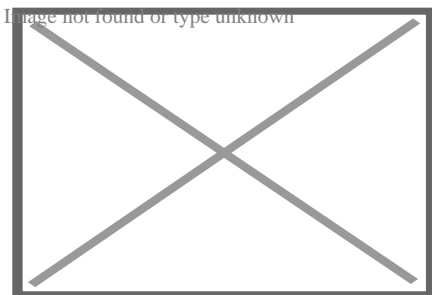
Education, in the general sense, refers to the act or process of imparting or acquiring general knowledge, developing the powers of reasoning and judgment, and preparing intellectually for mature life.^[68] Formal education most often takes place through schooling. A right to education has been recognized by some governments. At the global level, Article 13 of the United Nations' 1966 International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) recognizes the right of everyone to an education.^[69]

Education is compulsory in most places up to a certain age, but attendance at school may not be, with alternative options such as home-schooling or e-learning being recognized as valid forms of education in certain jurisdictions.

Children in some countries (especially in parts of Africa and Asia) are often kept out of school, or attend only for short periods. Data from UNICEF indicate that in 2011, 57 million children were out of school; and more than 20% of African children have never attended primary school or have left without completing primary education.^[70] According to a UN report, warfare is preventing 28 million children worldwide from receiving an education, due to the risk of sexual violence and attacks in schools.^[71] Other factors that keep children out of school include poverty, child labor, social attitudes, and long distances to school.^[72]^[73]

Attitudes toward children

[edit]



Group of breaker boys in Pittston, Pennsylvania, 1911. Child labor was widespread until the early 20th century. In the 21st century, child labor rates are highest in Africa.

Social attitudes toward children differ around the world in various cultures and change over time. A 1988 study on European attitudes toward the centrality of children found that Italy was more child-centric and the Netherlands less child-centric, with other countries, such as Austria, Great Britain, Ireland and West Germany falling in between.^[74]

Child marriage

[edit]

In 2013, child marriage rates of female children under the age of 18 reached 75% in Niger, 68% in Central African Republic and Chad, 66% in Bangladesh, and 47% in India.^[75]

According to a 2019 UNICEF report on child marriage, 37% of females were married before the age of 18 in sub-Saharan Africa, followed by South Asia at 30%. Lower levels were found in Latin America and Caribbean (25%), the Middle East and North Africa (18%), and Eastern Europe and Central Asia (11%), while rates in Western Europe and North America were minimal.^[76] Child marriage is more prevalent with girls, but also involves boys. A 2018 study in the journal *Vulnerable Children and Youth Studies* found that, worldwide, 4.5% of males are married before age 18, with the Central African Republic having the highest average rate at 27.9%.^[77]

Fertility and number of children per woman

[edit]

Before contraception became widely available in the 20th century, women had little choice other than abstinence or having often many children. In fact, current population growth concerns have only become possible with drastically reduced child mortality and sustained fertility. In 2017 the global total fertility rate was estimated to be 2.37 children per woman,^[78] adding about 80 million people to the world population per year. In order to measure the total number of children, scientists often prefer the completed cohort fertility at age 50 years (CCF50).^[78] Although the number of children is also influenced by cultural norms, religion, peer pressure and other social factors, the CCF50 appears to be most heavily dependent on the educational level of women, ranging from 5–8 children in women without education to less than 2 in women with 12 or more years of education. [^{78]}

Issues

[edit]

Emergencies and conflicts

[edit]

See also: Declaration on the Protection of Women and Children in Emergency and Armed Conflict, Children in the Israeli–Palestinian conflict, Save the Children, Inter–Agency Network for Education in Emergencies, Military use of children, Trafficking of children, International child abduction, and Refugee children

Emergencies and conflicts pose detrimental risks to the health, safety, and well-being of children. There are many different kinds of conflicts and emergencies, e.g. wars and natural disasters. As of 2010 approximately 13 million children are displaced by armed conflicts and violence around the world.^[79] Where violent conflicts are the norm, the lives of young children are significantly disrupted and their families have great difficulty in offering the sensitive and consistent care that young children need for their healthy development.^[79] Studies on the effect of emergencies and conflict on the physical and mental health of children between birth and 8 years old show that where the disaster is natural, the rate of PTSD occurs in anywhere from 3 to 87 percent of affected children.^[80]] However, rates of PTSD for children living in chronic conflict conditions varies from 15 to 50 percent.^{[81][82]}

Child protection

[edit]

This section is an excerpt from Child protection.[edit]

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Childcare

At home

- Parents
- Extended family
- Au pair
- Babysitter
- Governess
- Nanny

Outside the home

- Daycare
- Pre-school playgroup

Educational settings

- Early childhood education
- Homeschooling
- Pre-kindergarten
- Preschool
- Kindergarten
- Primary school

Institutions and standards

- Child protection
- *In loco parentis*
- Minor

Related

- Child abuse
- Child marriage
- Child Online Protection
- Family law
- Men in early childhood education
- Orphanage
- Parenting

Child protection (also called child welfare) is the safeguarding of children from violence, exploitation, abuse, abandonment, and neglect.^{[83][84][85][86]} It involves identifying signs of potential harm. This includes responding to allegations or suspicions of abuse, providing support and services to protect children, and holding those who have harmed them accountable.^[87]

The primary goal of child protection is to ensure that all children are safe and free from harm or danger.^{[86][88]} Child protection also works to prevent future harm by creating policies and systems that identify and respond to risks before they lead to harm.^[89]

In order to achieve these goals, research suggests that child protection services should be provided in a holistic way.^{[90][91][92]} This means taking into account the social, economic, cultural, psychological, and environmental factors that can contribute to the risk of harm for individual children and their families. Collaboration across sectors and disciplines to create a comprehensive system of support and safety for children is required.^{[93][94]}

It is the responsibility of individuals, organizations, and governments to ensure that children are protected from harm and their rights are respected.^[95] This includes providing a safe environment for children to grow and develop, protecting them from physical, emotional and sexual abuse, and ensuring they have access to education, healthcare, and resources to fulfill their basic needs.^[96]

Child protection systems are a set of services, usually government-run, designed to protect children and young people who are under age and to encourage family stability. UNICEF defines^[97] a 'child protection system' as:

"The set of laws, policies, regulations and services needed across all social sectors – especially social welfare, education, health, security and justice – to support prevention and response to protection-related risks. These systems are part of social protection, and extend beyond it. At the level of prevention, their aim includes supporting and strengthening families to reduce social exclusion, and to lower the risk of separation, violence and exploitation. Responsibilities are often spread across government agencies, with services delivered by local authorities, non-State providers, and community groups, making coordination between sectors and levels, including routine referral systems etc., a necessary component of effective child protection systems."

— *United Nations Economic and Social Council (2008), UNICEF Child Protection Strategy, E/ICEF/2008/5/Rev.1, par. 12–13.*

Under Article 19 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, a 'child protection system' provides for the protection of children in and out of the home. One of the ways this can be enabled is through the provision of quality education, the fourth of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, in addition to other child protection systems. Some literature argues that child protection begins at conception; even how the conception took place can affect the child's development.^[98]

Child abuse and child labor

[edit]

Protection of children from abuse is considered an important contemporary goal. This includes protecting children from exploitation such as child labor, child trafficking and child selling, child sexual abuse, including child prostitution and child pornography,

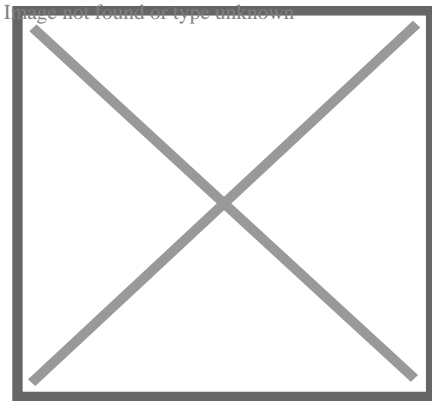
military use of children, and child laundering in illegal adoptions. There exist several international instruments for these purposes, such as:

- Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention
- Minimum Age Convention, 1973
- Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography
- Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse
- Optional Protocol on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict
- Hague Adoption Convention

Climate change

[edit]

This section is an excerpt from Climate change and children.[edit]



A child at a climate demonstration in Juneau, Alaska

Children are more vulnerable to the effects of climate change than adults. The World Health Organization estimated that 88% of the existing global burden of disease caused by climate change affects children under five years of age.^[99] A *Lancet* review on health and climate change lists children as the worst-affected category by climate change.^[100] Children under 14 are 44 percent more likely to die from environmental factors,^[101] and those in urban areas are disproportionately impacted by lower air quality and

overcrowding.^[102]

Children are physically more vulnerable to climate change in all its forms.^[103] Climate change affects the physical health of children and their well-being. Prevailing inequalities, between and within countries, determine how climate change impacts children.^[104] Children often have no voice in terms of global responses to climate change.^[103]

People living in low-income countries experience a higher burden of disease and are less capable of coping with climate change-related threats.^[105] Nearly every child in the world is at risk from climate change and pollution, while almost half are at extreme risk.^[106]

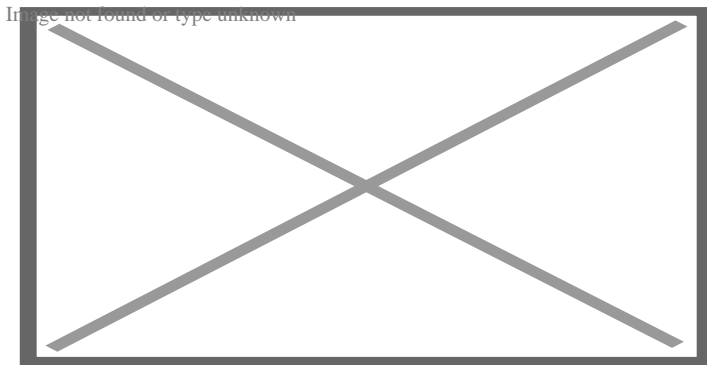
Health

[edit]

Child mortality


[edit]

Main articles: Child mortality and Infant mortality



World infant mortality rates in 2012.^[107]

During the early 17th century in England, about two-thirds of all children died before the age of four.^[108] During the Industrial Revolution, the life expectancy of children increased dramatically.^[109] This has continued in England, and in the 21st century child mortality rates have fallen across the world. About 12.6 million under-five infants died worldwide in 1990, which declined to 6.6 million in 2012. The infant mortality rate dropped from 90

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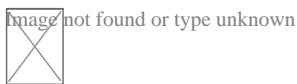
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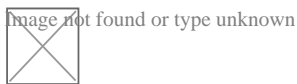
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- History
- Household
- Nuclear family
- Extended family
- Conjugal family
- Immediate family
- Matrifocal family

First-degree relatives

- Parent
 - mother
 - father
- Child
 - son
 - daughter
- Sibling
 - brother
 - sister

Second-degree relatives

- Grandparent
- Grandchild
- Uncle/Aunt
- Niece and nephew

Third-degree relatives

- Great-grandparent
- Great-grandchild
- Great-uncle/Great-aunt
- Cousin

Family-in-law

- Spouse
 - wife
 - husband
- Parent-in-law
- Sibling-in-law
- Child-in-law
 - daughter-in-law
 - son-in-law

Stepfamily

- Stepparent
 - stepfather
 - stepmother
- Stepchild
- Stepsibling

Kinship terminology

- Kinship
- Australian Aboriginal kinship
- Adoption
- Affinity
- Consanguinity
- Disownment
- Divorce
- Estrangement
- Family of choice
- Fictive kinship
- Marriage
- Nurture kinship
- Chinese kinship
- Hawaiian kinship
- Sudanese kinship
- Eskimo kinship
- Iroquois kinship
- Crow kinship
- Omaha kinship

Genealogy and lineage

- Bilateral descent
- Common ancestor
- Family name
- Heirloom
- Heredity
- Inheritance
- Lineal descendant
- collateral descent
- Matrilineality
- Patrilineality
- Progenitor
- Clan
- Royal descent

Family trees

- Pedigree chart
- Genogram
- Ahnentafel
 - Genealogical numbering systems
 - Seize quartiers
 - Quarters of nobility

Relationships

- Agape (parental love)
- Eros (marital love)
- Philia (brotherly love)
- Storge (familial love)
- Filial piety
- Polyfidelity

Holidays

- Mother's Day
 - U.S.
- Father's Day
- Father–Daughter Day
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- Parents' Day
- Children's Day
 - Japan
- Family Day
 - Canada
- American Family Day
- International Day of Families
- National Family Week
 - UK
- National Adoption Day

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- Sibling rivalry

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Development of the human body

- Development
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 - Gestational age

Birth and after

- Birth
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 - Stages
 - Early
 - Puberty
- Adult development
- Ageing
- Senescence
- Death

Phases

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- Youth
 - Preadolescence
 - Adolescence
 - Emerging adulthood
- Adulthood
 - Young adult
 - Middle adult
 - Elder adult
- Dying

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- Minor
- Age of majority

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