



Yardsticks: Children in the Classroom Ages 4-14

Chip Wood

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Written with warmth and humor, *Yardsticks* offers clear descriptions of children's development. This comprehensive, user-friendly reference helps teachers and administrators use knowledge of child development to shape classrooms and schools where all children can succeed.

For each age, this book includes:

Narrative description of developmental traits

Charts summarizing physical, social, language, and cognitive growth patterns

Suggestions for curricular areas: reading, writing, mathematics, and thematic units

Favorite books for different ages.

What's new in the third edition:

A new, brief overview of issues in the development of bilingualism and biliteracy among Latino/Hispanic children

A new appendix on the "birthday cluster exercise" for applying the information in the book to working with a whole class of students

An updated list of recommended children's books

An updated list of recommended resources for teachers and parents.

Yardsticks: Children in the Classroom Ages 4-14 Details

Date : Published January 1st 2007 by Northeast Foundation for Children (first published 1994)

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Author : Chip Wood

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From Reader Review Yardsticks: Children in the Classroom Ages 4-14 for online ebook

Marianne says

I love this book, and use it as a constant reference. If something has gone wrong in my class, I can typically solve it with this book or The Responsive Classroom, either way, I know I can fix most things by staying developmentally appropriate and adjusting self to norm with their cognitive development. I used to stick photocopies on the wall, but am thinking of getting the kids to make posters for me, and remind me when I am out of developmental range, train their own metacognition, and push them to growth, love Chip.

Beth Ernst says

This book provides a general description of developmental milestones, as far as literacy is concerned, grade by grade. There are writing samples at every age, which is helpful in assessing student progress. At the end of each section, the author describes what the child should be doing in reading, writing, etc. as a typical child of that age.

Sarah Ryburn says

Useful, accessible resource that proved invaluable in preparing a recent presentation on early adolescent development. Wood's exposition of physical, cognitive, social, and emotional developmental markers has me thinking, a lot, about what a developmentally appropriate school really would look like.

Annie says

A user friendly guidebook on developmental appropriateness from pre-K to high school. Great to keep in the classroom as a reference resource to see whether your child/students are developing appropriately!

Kim Bevier says

A very handy guide that expectations for varying age levels in the classroom. Love the distinctions between critical ages - 12, 13, 14 especially! Extremely helpful for me to understand as I get ready to teach middle schoolers.

Chris says

Very good benchmark for the basics of child development, as we understand it right now. Very helpful in driving instruction and development, and very helpful with how to work up acceptable behavior guidelines.

Amy says

Great resource to keep in mind student development.

Suzy says

Super helpful book for understanding school-age children's behavior within a developmental framework. VERY user-friendly. Takes just a moment to look up a behavior and reach the "aha" moment.

Kelly says

Re-read this for the first time since my student teaching year, specifically the chapters on ages 10-14, which is the age group currently most relevant to me. I've always appreciated how Wood breaks down characteristics of each age into categories relevant to teachers and helpful for organizing thinking about them- cognitive abilities, the socio-emotional work of the age, picking out traits that are developmentally normal and important (read: not about you, teachers and parents!) to the work that kids are doing at that age, the reminders about students' physical needs, etc. I also appreciate his compassionate perspective on these older ages, as well as his recognition of and compassion for the perspective of adults finding it frustrating to deal with the developmental necessities of this age group, however necessary the work is. It's one of the few teaching books I've held onto from that year, and I super think all teachers should read it. It's not a handbook to "all kids this age are this way", and Wood himself says that some students may be developmentally a different age than they are numerically- but it's a general guide to stages that makes things comprehensible.

R C says

I will continue coming back to this book. I love the anecdotal, descriptive and bullet point components of this book. It's a helpful, easy reference to better understand children and where they are in their development. I wish there was a little more depth into the social characteristics of each stage, but otherwise I really find it to be an excellent resource.

Chris Loeffler says

Important for all elementary educators to read.

Mleander23 says

Excellent book that focuses on students learning development as they age. Nicely written and bullet points highlight key areas.

Yzobelle says

Yardsticks: perfect companion for K-12 teachers. This book provides us with what to watch out for in every year that a child grows. As teachers, it is good to be always reminded that our children are real – not objects that can be forced to fit into a box. Each child is unique! *But thank nature for giving commonalities in every stage of human development. Otherwise, our classrooms would be chaotic ten times over!*

This book gives us a sneak peek of how children usually are in every stage of their schooling. I'd recommend that teachers in K-12 levels take time to read this and be once more enlightened by the innate strengths and limitations of children that we sometimes miss out.

Though this is an academic reference book, the way of writing didn't make it sound like it is. I loved the funny anecdotes the author injected in every stage. I read it as if I was reading one of the novels which I sooo wish I could grab time to read.

Colleen says

This book is a classic and a must-read for every elementary teacher, curriculum consultants, reading and math specialists, directors, principals, and administrators. The best part is it is organized really well, EASY to read, with bullet points and side titles, in order to best grasp quickly in the moment, and to refer back to later. The table of contents and chapters are organized by broader guidelines, then one chapter for each age group from 4 years, 5 years, etc., up to 14 years. It's comprehensive and to the point, so when planning curriculum or preparing for a meeting, you go to only the section or sections you need to visit. BRAVO Chip Wood.

Antoneta Gjolaj says

Great resource for teachers and parents.
