

Childhood

Infancy and Childhood are the beginning of life, from first emergence from the womb to the beginning of the stage we call adolescence. Those first ten years of life are of decisive importance for brain development, speech development, urinary and bowel control, and beginning inter personal external relations. This of course is only an external summary of events that occur while Johnnie or Susie transforms from the squalling totally dependent ball of slime covered flesh that comes from the womb into the cute toddler at five, photographed with his older brother in the back yard. The following five years may be considered the yield on the first five years' investment.

The second five years see the growth of independence, individualized tastes and affections, inter personal relations—games with kids in the neighbourhood— the first disciplines of school, the slow entry into a gender character. Taken from a wide view lens we can describe this creature before us as a beginning adolescent.

The observations of such as the Romantic poet William Wordsworth, that 'the child is 'father to the man,' reflect a persistent literary philosophical reflection on childhood. Scrutinizing the wondering gaze of the child, watching him as a still blessed offspring, of the golden origins that lie behind him, the Romantic poet will incline to see the child as a bearer of primal wisdom.