

Parental Development of Critical Building Blocks In The Successful Dwarf

By Ron Morris

Birth to 1-1½ years old:

Weight: at birth: 6 to 10 lbs. average.

Height: 14 to 20 inches average.

Physical Appearance: Head is very large and about ½ the length of body trunk. Limbs are very short in length and not in proportion to body length.

Intellect: Average to above average.

A complete mental, physical and glandular examination should be given at this time. X-rays should be taken of the entire skeletal structure also.

1½ years to 2½ years:

No crawling stage of development is common. Child stands by holding on to furniture. Average age is 15 to 23 months for starting of walking skills. Walking is in short distances of 3-10 feet, and then child sits before walking again. Check hearing. Tubes may be required at this time.

2½ years to 5 years:

Child climbs stairs, chairs, stools and around the house. Benches and stools must be provided on his or her own. Do not do it yourself for the child. These tasks of reaching or doing these kinds of things must be done by the child. You are seriously hurting the child for all the future years to come if you do it for them. Making it easier for the child takes away the experiences required for future developments. Self-confidence of "I can do it" is first developed at this critical age by this action. At this age your child will complain of his or her first growing pains. Ankles, leg muscles, and knees are very painful and really are hurting the child. Joints are too large for limbs and cause nerves to be pinched. Feet may fall asleep. The more the child walks, the more the swelling of ankles. Important step: the child must walk in spite of the pain that occurs. Child will grow out of this by 10 years of age. Don't let this be a scapegoat for getting out of daily required routines; the child's expected behaviour must be enforced in spite of this!

5 years to 6 years:

Expose child to large crowds such as stores. Pre-school is recommended. Note: This is one year later than that of the norm. Desks and chairs may cause pinched, legs and thighs. Stools should be provided for your child to work at ability level without being uncomfortable.

6 years to 7 years:

Expose child to large crowds of people. Kindergarten is recommended. Note: This is one year later than that of the norm. Dietician should be consulted at this time. Starchy foods

such as breads, spaghetti, pizza and excessive salt and sugars should be avoided. Added protein of meats, eggs and fish will increase the child's alertness in school. Your child may have difficulty in understanding directions and academic skill areas at this time. You can help by giving added drill in all academic areas at home. Encourage your child to go on because he or she will succeed at the task. Capitalize on special talents and skill areas of the child's interests and strengths. This is the start of a concentrated effort through the whole growth cycle that you bring out in the child.

8 years to 9 years:

Height difference first noticed by child as taught by peers in a negative manner. Name calling and teasing are common ground at this age. Don't allow or accept name-calling to persist in school. See the teacher or principal to stop it! Have your child's teacher talk about and discuss differences of all children. When your child is absent, the teacher should talk to the children about your child. Physical competition puts added stress on the child. Child may physically be doing twice what you think he or she can handle. Don't you be the one to deny the competition to the child! Your child must participate in all physical competition sports that they can. They may not be the winner, but they will not lose either. By trying, they build experiences and the self-confidence of belonging. This will point out to your child that they do belong. Scouting programs, 4-H, youth programs, church programs and groups, etc., are essential at this time and should be continued until about 17 years of age. This will allow for a mature, well-adjusted, social development and outlook on life.

9 years to 12 years:

Increase experiences and events to the MAX! Continue exposure to stores, public places, church, crowds, baseball and other games in public places, etc. Hiding a child from these kinds of things does not help the child! What it does though is to rob the child of all the social tools to work with in later life. You are killing your child socially and mentally in years to come if you do this. This is the only time your child can acquire these skills. Don't rob your child of the chance because YOU think it is best. Believe me, you are wrong if you do.

12 years to 14 years:

Puberty takes place. Worries for the young adult start in questions about normal; childbearing, marriage, and whether or not their children will be dwarfs. Differences in social development of wanting to date and belong to peer groups is most apparent. Peer rejection of joining or being voted into clubs or cliques may take place. Voice changes - 1 to 2 octaves lower. Style of clothing may bother young adult because they have to be made special. Maybe not even in the fashion of their friend's clothing. If you can sew or know someone who can may solve the problem by making stylish clothing.

14 years to 16 years:

Muscles and joints hurt from growing pains. Peer physical competition adds to physical stress. If dating is a problem, young adult must have other outlets: Little People of America, church, family, social programs, hobbies, interest areas, youth programs, volunteer work, etc.

16 years to 19 years:

Fears of the future can be very, very scary! Questions are asked by the young adult, such as: What occupation can I do? What if I am not a success? Will I ever be independent and on my own? Will I ever drive a car? What if no one wants to hire me? Will I ever own my own car? Will I meet someone my size to marry or will I marry a giant? Will I ever have children, or do I even want them? Will I have to live at home? Will I ever buy a house of my own? Will I go to a University? Will I go to a Trade School? What if I can't get a job? What if I have no financial means to go to school, etc., and etc.

19 years to 23 years:

99 percent of adults - maximum height is already attained. The biggest problem is making the decision to continue on in school, get a job, or get married. In most cases, you as the parent must have provided financially for your child's education. Education costs are high, and they cannot go it alone. Dating starts at this time for the male and female.

23 years to 30 years:

Adult will be established in a job or involved in higher education. 30 years of age is average for marriage of the adult dwarf female. Adult height is completed; male dwarf is about 4 feet to 4 feet 11 inches. Female dwarf is 3 feet 10 inches to 4 feet 7 inches.

32 years and older:

This is the average age for the adult dwarf male to marry. Proportional average adult weight of the male and female is critical for a healthy life span. Adult dwarf male should weigh about 95 to 130 pounds, maximum adult dwarf female should weigh about 80 to 105 pounds, maximum.

Conclusion:

Your child is a very special gift from Heaven; given to you for very special reasons from God ... you are not being punished for bad or offensive sins committed unto others or yourself, as others may tell you. Sometimes you may feel this within yourself ... nor were you picked because of reasons no one can explain ... in years to come the rewards of this child will be greater than all other rewards of being a parent combined ... be fair, loving, and show equal love and affection ... no special considerations or exceptions should be allowed in disciplining this child ... your child must be part of the total family, in an equal setting of family siblings ... as parents, you must insist and encourage the same expectations and goals of this child as you do from the other siblings within the family ...

put your child in charge of family matters as other siblings in your family ... don't deny him from experiencing the task, even if a failure takes place ... tell your child "you never, never fail at anything if you try your best!"

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