

What humans can't do

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One of the tragic mistakes many parents make is simply not knowing what children cannot do. This handy list will save everyone frustration.

What people can't do

perform well while multitasking

continue to perform at high levels without rejuvenation

know things before they learn them

be 100% anything (good, right, careful, sensible, bad, evil, careless)

think during an amygdala hijack

process 'don't' effectively

think rationally while stressed

stop loving their parents

understand their own motivation at the time

remember goals and apply them to decisions without fail

stay sane, learn new things, or pay attention on too little sleep

intentionally wake themselves up to bother anyone

What under-three year olds and early teens can't do

control impulses

soothe themselves

formulate the intent to injure

manage their emotions themselves

distinguish wants and desires from needs

repress emotions

fake emotions

remember anything longer than about 2 minutes ago

remember rules

effectively resist addiction

understand complexity, particularly in thinking

see themselves from a 3rd person perspective

withstand peer pressure

plot effectively

risk analysis

discern character accurately

What 3-11 year olds can't do

lose graciously

like people who are mean to them

predict others' reactions accurately

plot effectively

dislike their parents

separate themselves from their feelings or their behaviour

formulate the intent to harm

understand someone else's physical experience or perspective

risk analysis

predict cause and effect

manage their emotions alone

distinguish want or desire from needs

repress emotions

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