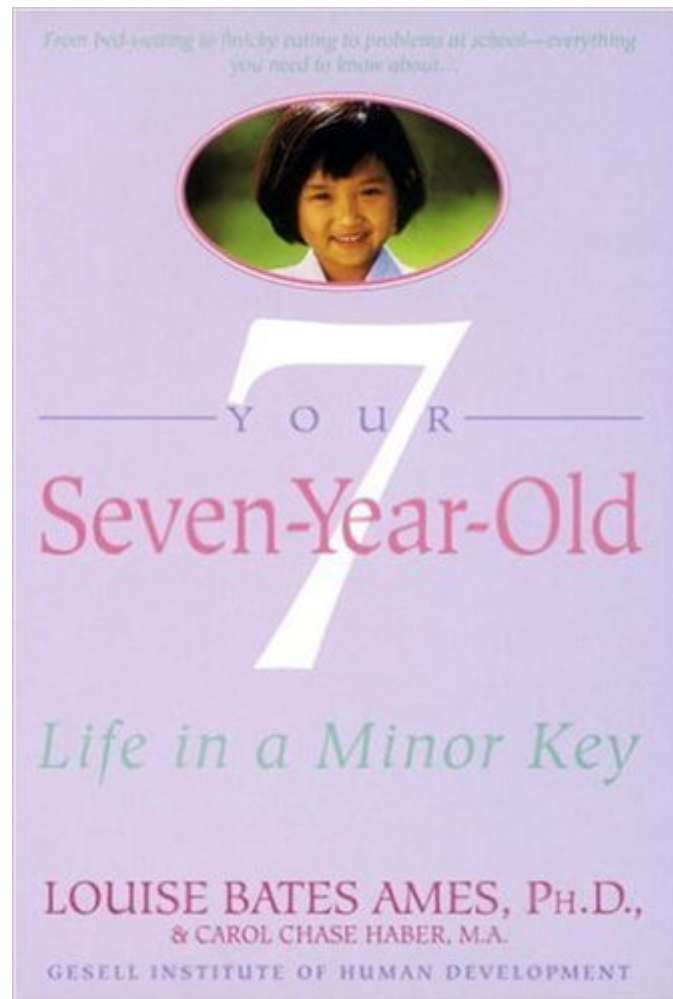


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# Your Seven-Year-Old: Life In A Minor Key



## Synopsis

Your Seven-Year-Old is devoted to the delightful but often anxious and withdrawn child of Seven. Although any seven-year-old will have moments of exuberance, security, and happiness, in general this is an age of introspection. As it begins, parents and teachers may welcome the quiet after the tussles and tangles of Six. But once the child of Seven starts to withdraw it's almost as though he doesn't know where or when to stop. Seven-year-olds feel picked on by family, friends, and teachers alike; they worry that no one likes them; they expect every little task to prove too difficult to handle; tears come easily at this age. With wit and wisdom, Dr. Ames of the highly respected Gesell Institute and Carol Chase Haber offer insights into what children this age are feeling and thinking, and how parents can best deal with these moody, serious Sevens. Included in this book:

- New body awareness
- Sulking
- Concerns about fairness
- Stories from real life
- Fascination with horror, gore
- Threats of running away from home
- Life in the second grade
- Books for Sevens and the parents of Sevens

Louise Bates Ames and her colleagues synthesize a lifetime of observation of children, consultation, and discussion with parents. These books will help parents to better understand their children and will guide them through the fascinating and sometimes trying experiences of modern parenthood.

—Donald J. Cohen, M.D.,  
Director, Yale Child Study Center, Irving B. Harris Professor of Child Psychiatry, Pediatrics, and Psychology, Yale School of Medicine

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

When you know what behaviors are "normal" for your child's age you can relax, stop the worry, and focus on appropriate solutions. This whole series of books accurately defines the ages and stages

of children. These books keep your expectations realistic and allow you to avoid anger caused by a lack of understanding of your child's developmental stages.

My happy friendly confident son, 7, has been moody, emotional and depressed for the last few months. Was it a stage or was there something serious going on at school? Everyone was against him, he has no friends, people laugh at him....Thank god for this book. I started laughing as soon as I read the first page...it fit my son's new behavior perfectly. These books are not parenting books telling you how to be a good parent. Rather, they are describing the child and how they develop and what is going on in their minds. This helps you, as parent, to decide how to handle things, to know if there is a serious problem or just a stage to get through and outgrow. I have already bought the 8 year old book, so that I am ready for the next stage, and I am going to buy the 5 year old book, so that I make sure I am not missing anything with my younger son. This book is just what I needed!

When my then 5 1/2 year old was behaving much differently than he had at age 5, my mother pulled out an old hardcover version of the Gesell Institute Books and - oh my! - much of the changes seemed to be quite common among 5 1/2 year olds! These are 'old' books (I'm one of the earliest of the baby boomers, though my child is now nearly 9), but they are still useful. This book and all in the series are little paperbacks, quick to read. Our society has changed since they were written, so a bit of the book may seem dated if you don't like 'traditional roles. However, there is much good information and wisdom in here, unencumbered by the modern day concerns about ADD and such. In expensive, a good investment to ease a parent's mind. A nice gift from grandparents to their own children, and for young parents, just nice to have on the shelf for those days when we forget that kids behaviors and interests change as they grow up.

"Life in a Minor Key" provides a sneak preview to the parental challenges and pleasures which lie ahead for the coming year. As I watch my child's dramatic transition from young child to schoolboy, it is comforting and helpful to refer to this reassuring guide.

These books have helped me understand what my children have been going through at various stages/ages of their development. This book was on target with my daughter's behavior/temperment. However, I found the problem solving answers to be extrememely outdated. The authors suggested that a particular seven yr old who disliked school could either change to a private school, stay back in first grade or shorten the school day. What were they thinking? No

suggestions were given as to how to talk to the child or work with the teachers, school or family doctor. I thought I would get some advice for a similar problem, not this time. In general I found this book helpful but think it needs to be updated, possibly each decade.

Seeing into the mind of a seven-year old is an amazing journey. From sullen independence to exuberant joy at new horizons. Louise Bates Ames guides readers around the pitfalls and gives a new understanding to this inwardly viewed age. It's as wonderful as the rest of her age-related books.

This is absolutely a must have for any parent. I had read most of the books in the series, but unfortunately skipped the last two. Silly me ! When my 7 year-old started to behave like a drama queen, moody and withdrawn, I thought he was suffering some crisis. After reading 10 pages, I was relieved to see this was completely normal behavior for his age. It seemed the book was describing my own son. The main benefit of the book is not to give you a perfect formula on how to be a parent, but to ease your anxieties about your kid's behavior. Of course, after understanding the profile of the kid at this age, with some sensitivity, one can adapt its strategy to deal with the child better. For example, with an over sensitive, easily insulted 7 year-old, one should be careful not to joke or tease him too often, like you could do when he was 6. I don't agree that the book is outdated. It is extremely easy to adapt the information to our days. If a child is too sensitive, don't let him watch a scary movie, for example. Don't talk to him about global warming. Come on, it is simple. In summary, this is an excellent investment for your peace of mind. For one cent, this book is worth hundreds of dollars in therapist fees.

My wife and I became legal guardians of our now 6-year-old grandson almost 3 years ago. It had been a long time since either of us had raised a kid and then it was mostly a "seat of the pants" kind of thing, and we needed some advice. I called the wife of a good friend who teaches Childhood Development at the local JC and told her we had a LOT of questions we needed answers for. She told us the best she could do is recommend to us the books she recommends to her class: the Ames/Ilg series, "Your...Year Old". We started with "Your Four-Year-Old" and have bought every one in order as our boy has aged, now reading "Your Seven-Year-Old". They have very...VERY!!...much eased the way for us in so many ways. I don't know what we would've done without 'em. Don't hesitate - get 'em, you'll love 'em...and so will your grateful child.

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