

Sign of the times

Understanding why our children behave as they do is never easy, local astrologer Jo Munro explains why sometimes the answer could be in the stars.

As parents, we all sometimes struggle to understand our children's behaviour. Why are the terrible twos an especially challenging phase? Why can teenagers become withdrawn and sulky? Astrology can give us a deeper insight to the psychological reasons behind the traits and behaviours of our children; we just need to know what we are looking for.

When children are about 22 months old (or the terrible twos), the planet Mars returns home to the position it was in at the time of birth. The toddler unconsciously feels the re-visitation of this original energy and begins to express it. In Greek mythology, Mars is ruled by Ares, the god of war. The 'I want' demand is purely Mars – courage, assertion and immediate 'wants' are being acted out by your child. At this point, a pattern is being formed and the manner in which your child expresses and initiates their demands will carry on through their lifetime (although hopefully in a more civilised form).

Think about how Mars manifests itself through your child – perhaps as spontaneous, fearless, impulsive, charming, manipulative or even chilled? Then think if your Mars' energy is compatible with your child's, or is your partner's Mars more in tune? Look up the position of your child's Mars at www.astro.com to see if it's in an earth, air, fire or water sign for an explanation of what this means. If your energy is very different from your child, but theirs is more compatible with your partner, it can perhaps be helpful to hand over at this point – take a breath and think: 'It's not me, it's them!'

By the time the child reaches seven, another important turn of the astrological clock has taken place. Saturn makes a right angle to its original position, stirring up themes of maturity and responsibility. Saturn (or Cronus) the timekeeper appears in seven-year cycles; these mark times of growing responsibility, maturity and separation – all necessary for our inner growth. Parents of Year 3 children may find that expectations of responsibility have been upped – children are expected to remember what to take in and bring home from school, and the homework increases. Expecting your child to take on more personal responsibility is important at this age and we are doing a disservice to our children if we continue to do everything for them. Maria Montessori believed freedom and discipline went hand-in-hand, her expectations of what she believed your child is capable of is quite an eye-opener (emptying the dishwasher at six, preparing a simple meal at ten



Astrological Counselling

During times of change, difficulty or uncertainty, it can be helpful to reflect on the circumstances that surround the event. Quite often external changes are a reflection of inner growth. A birth-chart reading can indicate how long a difficult period will last and how best to deal with it. Your potentials and strengths are also shown in the chart.

Are you living your life authentically?
Do you need clarity on a situation?
Is your potential being fulfilled?

Please see my website www.jomunro-astrology.com for more details or to make an appointment in Marlow ring Jo on **07909 318453**.



and washing the car at 12, to find out more take a look online). Rudolf Steiner's philosophy agreed with seven-year cycles, the loss of the milk teeth, being an important psychological milestone. And in many countries, including China, Switzerland and South Africa, the children start school at seven.

The next important change happens at about 12, when Jupiter returns to its original birthday point. This is an exciting time for children – Jupiter represents expansion and learning. At around this age children are getting a sense that there is a wider world out there. Introducing them to newspapers, along with meaningful travel experiences and spiritual ideas, will all spark off this energy. School trips and holiday camps at this point will give the adventurous child an exciting escape from everyday life and the chance to reflect on how other people may live. Bat and Bar Mitzvah's occur at 12 and 13, during this Jupiter return. Perfectly timed, this coming of age ceremony gives space for religious contemplation and participation into the wider Jewish community.

At the age of 14/15, Saturn is back, this time opposite its original placement. Boundaries are being tested here as the child simultaneously wants them and rejects them. Psychologically, a desperate search for identity is being sought. Positive messages given throughout childhood that they are loved and are perfect as they are will sustain the child through this awkward time. If a child hasn't heard the earlier 'applause', this is the time that they start to indulge in risky behaviour. The young person is crying out to be taken seriously and the peer group becomes all important as they try to separate from their parents and find their place in the world. At this point, their peers can literally save or destroy them. Grief is part of this process as the adolescent grieves for the loss of the relationship they once had with their parents.

These cycles continue throughout our life, with many more thrown at us as we age and grow into ourselves. We are what we are, and if we accept ourselves and our children with all our quirks, we can hopefully successfully navigate the challenging times. After all, as my first astrology teacher told me; 'we are all just drops of stardust'.

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