

## CHILD BEHAVIOR DURING DIVORCE BY AGE

### Birth—1 year

- Child is learning to trust or mistrust and needs consistency of care.
- may cry, fuss; have difficulty feeding or at bedtime, including interrupted sleep patterns; general irritability after changing from one house to the other.

### 1-3 years

- Child is exploring the environment, using new skills, and learning independence and needs a predictable schedule and environment.
- may regress from developmental accomplishments; cling & whine following exchanges; have bedwetting or other accidents; act out or throw temper tantrums.

### 3-5 years

- Child is modeling and developing identity and needs family and security.
- may have bedwetting or accidents; sleep difficulties; peer problems; increased sibling rivalry; greater need for attention.

### 6-12 years

- Child is a pre-teen and needs to develop self-reliance and a positive self-image.
- may have a lack of interest; extreme behaviors in compliance or defiance; peer problems; drop in grades; forgetfulness or depression.

### 13-18 years

- Child is an adolescent and needs socialization.
- may have sulkiness, depression, poor or failing grades, changes in friends and outside interests, and distance self from family.

