

Youth Development- Thinking

K-3rd Grade

Interested in the process rather than the end product

Inclined to continue working on a project than to complete it

Thinking is concrete- has to have experience with something to think of it

Able to better follow directions when demonstrated rather than given verbally

3rd-6th Grade

Beginning to think logically and symbolically

Think of things as black and white- very little room for middle ground

Individual evaluation by an adult is usually preferred to group competition

May be surprised by what can be accomplished when encouraged by an adult



Youth Development- Social

K-3rd Grade

Are facing new responsibilities and demands

Learning how to be friends and may have 'best' friends

Want to be successful when peers are watching

Separation of boys and girls occurs during most play

3rd-6th Grade

Beginning to identify with groups

Older children take responsibility for their actions

Satisfaction from completing a project may be more from pleasing the leader than the activity itself

Developing an increased independence of thought and action- tying new things



Youth Development- Emotional

K-3rd Grade

Not able to imagine what other people think and feel

Unable to set their own standards- needs adult approval

Success needs to be emphasized- even if it is a small accomplishment

Competition with others is not developmentally appropriate

3rd-6th Grade

Strong need to feel accepted and worthwhile

School becomes more difficult and demanding- can easily feel overwhelmed

Success needs to be emphasized- even if it is a small accomplishment

Better to compare past performance with present rather than compare with peers

