

# Youth Development- Thinking

## Middle School

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

## Teens

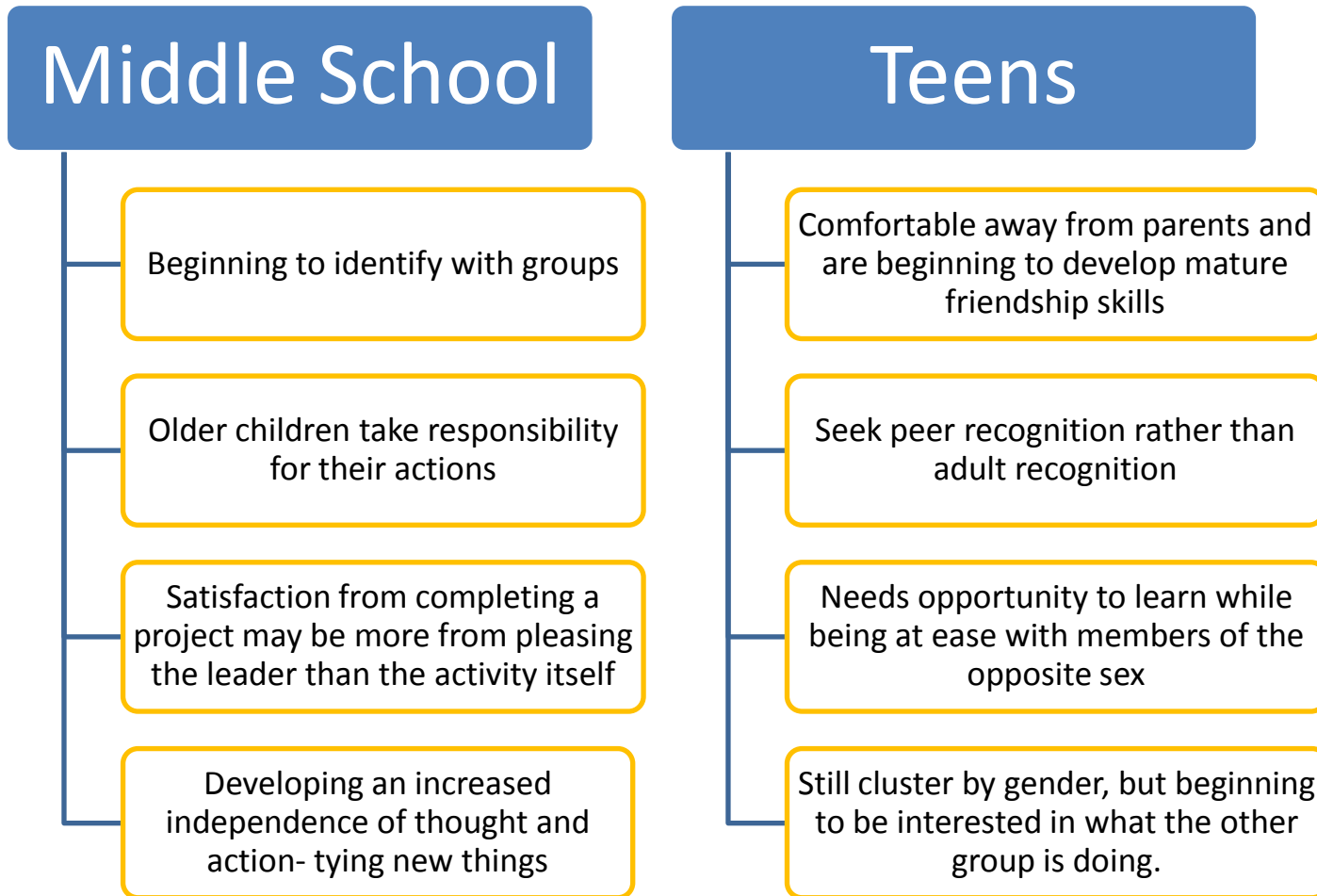
Move from concrete to more abstract thinking

Ready-made solutions from adults may be rejected in favor of finding solutions on one's own

If an adult leader is respected, his or her opinion will be highly valued

Small clubs with many positions for developing leadership are ideal

# Youth Development- Social



# Youth Development- Emotional

## Middle School

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

## Teens

Beginning to test values

Need to be assured that some uneasiness about one's self is normal

Compare present performance with past accomplishments- not to the performance of others

Promote activities that demonstrate a sense of responsibility