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 in 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