

Developmental Stages for Girls

Grade Level (K-2)

- * Awareness that people have different thoughts and knowledge from their thoughts/knowledge
- * Ability to interpret people's thoughts, feelings and behaviors in a simple manner (She's sad)
- * Better at controlling and concealing feelings
- * Prefer to be with other girls instead of boys
- * Think in concrete terms, but are beginning to process more abstract concepts issues

- * More self-control - recognize what is "proper" behavior
- * Want more space from parents
- * Have a stronger self-concept in terms of sex and body image

Grade Level (3-5)

- * Recognize that others interpret experiences/events differently and so may misunderstand experiences/events
- * Realize that other people's actions may hide their true feelings
- * Thinking is concrete, but begin to think logically, symbolically and abstractly

- * Express abstract ideas in poetry, song, and drawing
- * Begin to show special talents - art, music, writing, etc...
- * Take pride in their projects
- * Things are "all or nothing" and "right or wrong" nothing in between
- * Have a need to feel accepted and useful/valuable
- * Beginning to take responsibility of own actions
- * Develop "hero" worship

Grade Level (6-8)

- * Increase interest in other people's thoughts and feelings
- * Recognize that people may have multiple and possibly have conflicting motives and emotions
- * Ability to think repeatedly about one's own and other's thoughts
- * Feel unique, like no one has ever felt the way they do
- * Self-conscious about body image
- * Are extremely concerned with and put a lot of energy/interest into their friends and peers
- * Are interested in "What's Hot" and "What's Not" in fashion, music, celebrities and style
- * Feel a lot of pressure from the social scene at school
- * Think that adults don't understand their social lives - How complicated and stressful they are
- * Committed to getting along with and communicating with parents
- * Typically have good communication skills and with help can present issues effectively in public
- * Like to be with and serve people

Grade Level (9-12)

Developmental Stages for Girls

- * Recognize that people's past events and present circumstances influence personality and behavior
- * Realize that people are not always aware of why they act as they do
- * Are interested in their clothing and appearance
- * Like to be included in setting rules
- * Beginning to define their own values
- * Are able to think abstractly
- * Are able to organize their ideas orally & in writing
- * Can sometimes be in a "know-it-all" phase
- * Are passionate about beliefs & causes
- * Are beginning to promote individuality; thrive within acknowledgement of strengths, skills, & talents
- * Are developing stronger logic & problem-solving skills
- * Striving for a strong sense of self
- * Working toward independence & freedom, seeking to make their own decisions

- * Are able to formulate complex plans
- * crave friends to turn to & trust; eager to belong to trusted groups of friends where they feel emotionally safe & connected
- * Are passionate about beliefs & causes
- * Are exploring risk taking as a rite of passage & managing the responsibilities of new privileges (i.e., driving)
- * Are often over-committed
- * Are juggling life decisions & pressures (college, job, intimate relationships)