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)