

## Implications for Practice

It is important to understand the development of children at each stage in order to meet their needs. I found that middle school students are more physically mature than emotionally mature. They are more aware of what is happening in the world and how it affects them. I also noticed that students in this stage mature at different rates, some faster than others. At this stage cognitively, students start to problem-solve and think more critically. Understanding where students should be cognitively can help you identify academic gaps and determine a student's individual needs. As a high school principal I would use this information to address these needs and close the gap. I will also use this information to guide my approach in supporting teachers instructionally. Schools not only affect students' academic achievement but also influence the way they organize their thoughts and cognition. The quality of children's school experiences influences a wide range of outcomes. As a leader I will support teachers so that they can support each student's vocational aspirations, feelings of competence and self-worth, academic motivation, identity formation, peer relations, racial attitudes, gender-role beliefs, and even standards of right and wrong.