

Developmental Stage Theories

| Developer | Sigmund Freud | Erik Erikson | Jean Piaget | Lawrence Kohlberg |
|---------------|--------------------------------|--|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Theory | Freud's Psychosexual | Erikson's Psychosocial | Cognitive Development | Moral Development |
| Stages | Oral Stages • 0 - 1.5 yrs | Trust vs. Mistrust • 0 - 1 yrs | Sensorimotor • 0 - 2 yrs | reconventional • 0 - 9 yrs |
| | Anal Stages • 1.5 - 3 yrs | Autonomy vs shame/doubt • 1 - 3 yrs | Preoperational • 2 - 7 yrs | |
| | Phallic Stages • 3 - 6 yrs | Initiative vs. guilt • 3 - 6 yrs | | |
| | Latency Stages • 6 - 12 yrs | Industry vs. inferiority • 6 - 12 yrs | Concrete • 7 - 12 yrs | Conventional • 10 - 14 yrs |
| | Genital Stages • 12+ yrs | Identity vs. role confusion • 12 - 20 yrs | Formal • 12+ yrs | Postconventional • 14+ yrs |
| | | Intimacy vs. isolation • 20 - 40 yrs | | |
| | | Generativity vs. isolation • 40 - 60 yrs | | |
| | | Integrity vs. despair • 60+ | | |

Sigmund Freud's Five Psychosexual Stages

Oral Stage

In this stage, infants seek pleasure through their mouths. Babies tend to put everything they grab into their mouths. Freud thought that people fixated at this stage might overeat, smoke, and in general have a childlike dependence on things and people.

Anal Stage

This stage develops during toilet training. If conflict around toilet training arises, a person might fixate and be overly controlling (retentive) or out of control (expulsive).

Phallic Stage

During this stage, babies realize their gender, causing conflict in the family. In this process, boys experience the Oedipus complex, when boys resent their father's relationship with their mothers. The same process for girls is called the Electra complex. Conflict in this stage could cause later problems in relationships.

Latency Stage

At this stage, Freud thought children go through a short latency, or period of calm, and between the ages of six and puberty of low psychosexual anxiety that most psychologists don't regard as a separate stage.

Genital Stage

Once they enter the genital stage, adolescents remain at this stage for the rest of their lives. The focus is sexual pleasure on genitals, and to have this fixation is what is considered normal.

Lawrence Kohlberg's Three Moral Development Stages

Preconventional

Children focus on making the decision most likely to avoid punishment. Their moral reasoning is limited to how the choice affects themselves.

Conventional

At this level, children can see past personal gain or loss and look at moral choices through other views. Children in this stage make moral choices based on how others view them, and learn of what is right and wrong from parents, peers, and their surroundings.

Postconventional

At the final stage, moral reasoning develops, where a person examines the rights and values involved in a choice. Self-defined ethical principles are utilized, where opposing ideals or thoughts are weighed out to come to a conclusion.

Jean Piaget's Four Cognitive Development Stages

Sensorimotor Stage

From birth to the age of 2, babies explore the world strictly through their senses. First cognitive schemas are developed to explain the processes of the world. *Object permanence* is developed during this period – babies understand that objects exist even if the infants can't see the objects.

Preoperational Stage

From ages 2 to 7, toddlers understand real-world symbols and begin using language, which is an essential development at this stage. While children can express their own views, they cannot see the world through other people's perspective, and are thus *egocentric*.

Concrete Operational Stage

At ages 5 to 12, children are able to think logically understand complex relationships between different characteristics of objects, and demonstrate knowledge of *concepts of conservation*, such as volume, area, and numbers.

Formal Operational Stage

From ages of 12 onwards to adulthood, abstract reasoning develops, where people can manipulate objects and contrast ideas in the mind without physically seeing the objects. *Hypothesis testing* is such an ability developed at this age, as well as *metacognition*, which is the ability to think about the way one thinks.

Erik Erikson's Eight Psychosocial Stages

Trust vs. Mistrust

Babies' first social experience centers on need fulfillment. Babies learn if they can trust the world/provider can provide for their needs and that their requests (crying, tantrums) are effective.

Autonomy vs. Shame and Doubt

At this stages, toddlers begin to exert their will over their bodies for the first time. "No," is a favorite word at this time. Toddlers learn to control temper, tantrums, and demonstrate control over themselves and others.

Initiative vs. Guilt

At this stage, "Why?" replaces "No!" Once we trust those around us and feel personal control over our own bides, we begin to question and seek understanding of our surroundings. Those who take the initiative and are encouraged flourish, while those

who are scolded for their curiosity may feel guilty about asking questions and avoid doing so in the future.

Industry vs. Inferiority

At this stage, formal education begins, and children enter school. Whether in the classroom or on the playground, children are often expected to perform well at games and school work. Those who can do these things well are competent and are high in industry, while those who are unable to do so experience inferiority.

Identity vs. Role Confusion

During adolescence, people try to understand who they are, the roles they should take, and often spend time with groups to figure themselves out, or take time to look inwards at who they are.

Intimacy vs. Isolation

Those who have established stable identities then must figure out how to balance between work (such as careers, school, or self-improvement) and relationships with other people. Common conflicts that arise are family vs. work, platonic vs. romantic relationships, etc.

Generativity vs. Stagnation

At this point, people begin to look critically at their life paths. People want to make sure they are creating the type of life they want for themselves, and do so by seizing control of their lives to ensure things go as they plan. This stage is often identified by people doing what they can do to ensure that their lives are going the way they want them to go.

Integrity vs. Despair

The last stage comes towards the end of a person's life, where they look back at what they've done, and assess their accomplishments and failures, and whether they are satisfied with their lives or not.