

The stages of psychosocial development

Erik Erikson (1902-1994) agreed with Piaget on the fact that children develop in a predetermined order, but chose to analyse how children socialise, and developed the **Theory of Psychosocial Development**, in which he identifies eight different stages.

His model was a **lifespan** model of development, organized in five stages up to the age of 18 and three further stages into adulthood. Successful completion of each stage results in a healthy personality and successful interaction with others. However, Erikson suggested that there is still plenty of room for continued growth and development throughout one's life.

Erikson **claimed** that at all psychosocial stages the individual develops simultaneously on three levels: biological, social and psychological (representing the organism, membership of society and individualism, respectively). The chart below summarizes Erikson's stages:

claim: to assert as a fact
caregiver: the person looking after the child
forceful: powerful
fulfilled: satisfied, realized
lifespan: lifetime
mistrust: lack of confidence
trusting: confident in someone's ability, character or integrity



STAGE	AGE	BASIC CONFLICT	IMPORTANT EVENT	SUMMARY
1. Oral-Sensory	0-12/18 months	Trust vs. Mistrust	Feeding	The infant must form a first loving, trusting relationship with the caregiver , or it will develop a sense of mistrust.
2. Muscular-Anal	18 months-3 years	Autonomy vs. Shame/Doubt	Toilet training	The child's energies are directed toward developing physical skills, including walking, grasping and rectal sphincter control. The child learns control but may develop shame and doubt if the situation is not handled well.
3. Locomotor	3-6	Initiative vs. Guilt	Independence	The child continues to become more assertive and to take more initiative, but may be too forceful , which may lead to guilt feelings.
4. Latency	6-12	Industry vs Inferiority	School	The child must deal with demands to learn new skills, or risk a sense of inferiority, failure and incompetence.
5. Adolescence	12-18	Identity vs. Role confusion	Peer relationships	The teenager must achieve a sense of identity in occupation, sex roles, politics and religion.
6. Young Adulthood	19-40	Intimacy vs. Isolation	Love relationships	The young adult must develop intimate relationships or suffer feelings of isolation.
7. Middle Adulthood	40-65	Generativity vs. Stagnation	Parenting	Each adult must find some way to satisfy and support the next generation.
8. Maturity	65 to death	Ego Integrity vs. Despair	Reflection on and acceptance of one's life.	The culmination is a sense of oneself as one is, and of feeling fulfilled .

Complete each stage with the appropriate age intervals and put the stages in the correct chronological order. Then listen and check.

-, people begin to have more intimate relationships leading toward longer-term commitments with someone outside the family.
-, children begin to plan activities, make up games and initiate activities with others.
-, children continue to acquire new skills and develop a sense of pride or disappointment, depending on their success or failure.
-, children begin to learn the ability to trust others, based on the relationship with the people that take care of them.
-, people establish their careers, begin and raise their own family, and get involved in community activities.
-, children begin to assert their independency.
-, they slow down their productivity and develop integrity if they see themselves as having led a successful life.
-, children become more independent, explore possibilities and begin to form their own identity.

