

Chapter 6

1-Describe Erickson's developmental stages found in middle childhood. How can Erickson's theory be useful for assessment?

Erickson developmental stages found in middle childhood was referred to by Erickson as one of the industry vs Inferiority. He described this as a critical time for children ages 6-12 to learn. This is the stage where children learn to play games, sports, and most of the foundation of their academics is learned during this stage. This would include learning how to read, write, spell and the act of wanting to participate in other school activities. These activities can help kids to develop physically, mentally, and academically. This stage is imperative in that it helps children to make impressive cognitive gains in their daily functioning. Children who fail to gain a sense of competence may develop a sense of inferiority. They may feel less than their fellow classmates as they may feel that they are not excelling at the same level as them. In order for a child to feel that they belong, they need to feel that they are capable and competent. Without the opportunities to develop new skills, they may end up feeling inadequate or that they just don't measure up.

Erickson theory is useful for assessment in that Erik Erikson's various stages are simple to understand and easily applied to see what stage the child is currently in and what stage they need to work through to be at the stage appropriate for their age.

2-Discuss the significance of peer relationships in middle childhood. How can peer relationships support development in middle childhood? How can peer relationships impede development in middle childhood?

Peer relationships in middle childhood are significant in that In middle childhood, peer acceptance, friendship, and friendship quality all matter in terms of reducing a child's chance of loneliness. Positive peer relationships help make children more resilient , even when they face difficulties at home. Middle childhood is an important developmental period for peer relations. Social time spent with peers increases, tightly knit friendships can develop, acceptance becomes important, and some aspects of peer relations become more stable. This can support the development of healthy social skills.

Children benefit from the social and emotional support that friends offer, but they can also experience occasional social stressors and peer conflicts. Peer relationships provide a unique context in which children learn a range of critical social emotional skills, such as empathy, cooperation, and problem-solving strategies. Negative interactions among peers can impede development in middle childhood as now the child may feel inferior and may no longer want to create friendships and may rather be alone. They may find that being alone is a safe place for them.

3-Discuss the development of social cognition, in particular, social role-taking and interpersonal awareness. How can social cognition function to support and/or impede development in middle childhood?

Middle childhood development takes place between the ages of 6-12 years. This stage is associated with fast cognitive development, and the children develop better social skills as they interact with people in their social circle. Social cognition in children is the growing ability to understand others' feelings and perspectives. During this time children have the ability to relate to their peers and have a sense of empathy for them. They are working on building an ability that emerges because of general cognitive growth. They can recognize their peers' perspective and their own. During this time children also start to form stronger, more friendships and peer relationships. It becomes more emotionally important to them to have friends, best friends and/or a circle of friends that they can relate to. Now that friendships and friend circles are more important, they may experience more peer pressure. Social cognition function can either support or impede development in middle childhood depending on whether the child is having a positive or negative interaction with his / her peers. Negative social interactions such as bullying or a feeling of inferiority can cause an impediment in the child's growth. Whereas a sense of belonging and thriving within a well-established friendship group can support cognition functions positively.