

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

The Erickson developmental stage found in middle childhood is industry vs inferiority. This is the point where children start comparing themselves with their peers and establish who they are. Children are starting to build their social competence and want to become friends with others based on similar traits. Erikson theory is useful for assessment because if they develop the skills they will be able to move on to the next stage of development which is identity crisis of adolescence.

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?

According to chapter 6, Research was done by Merrill Roff on the importance of healthy psychological development and later the studies found children with poor peer relationships were more prone to serious mental health problems. I found it interesting how the chapter discusses about poor peer relationships can include an increased risk for psychiatric problems. What immediately came to my mind is how peer relationships affect childhood for example a child being bullied when he is younger and not seeking medical help to address the trauma in that point in time. The media depicts mass shooters as individuals who had some sort of trauma during their age and it goes unresolved and bad things happen to people who aren't even involved in the situation. Example: The mass shooter in Texas who shot those innocent children because he had past trauma and mental health issues.

During childhood, children should make friends to foster friendships and get a sense of group belonging. Peer relationships has a linkage to social skills training and social cognition.

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?

Young children are unable to sympathize with the sentiments of older adults. I think this is very true because young children don't know what is right or wrong at times and they start to develop the social capacity as they get older. Children get to the age after 12 where they learn about other people's feelings and thoughts in a more different level because they are able to differentiate other feelings and their own. Role-taking is similar to the development of social skills. The connection is linked by social behaviors and the child's ability to take another person role.

Interpersonal awareness is linked to asking questions to children on what are their feelings about certain things. I like how the book discusses distinctive reasoning and it questions if children at a different level and how they function with the rest of their peers.