

Reflection 6 (Jenna Lee)

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

According to Ashford et al. (2018), the middle childhood begins at the age of six and ends at the age of twelve, when adolescence begins. According to Erickson, this is the fourth state, which he calls "industry versus inferiority.". Children at this age are approaching the end of their preschool years, which is a time when they are beginning to acquire new skills and competencies. The objective of this stage is to develop the children's intellectual, social, and physical competence in all three areas. In order to reach their developmental milestone, children need to develop a sense of industry during this stage of their development. It is likely they will develop feelings of inferiority if they fail to gain this sense of industry. Erickson contributed significantly to the development of a useful framework of assessment for children in middle childhood for the following reasons. First and foremost, his framework is useful for assessing children's social and emotional development. With Erickson's framework, clinical staff, teachers, and parents can understand the tasks and challenges associated with this stage so that children will receive appropriate assistance or services if their developmental tasks fall short of expectations. It may also assist social workers and child development professionals to better understand the role of positive social influences on children's development and develop appropriate interventions and approaches for promoting normal growth.

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?

As children spend more time with their peers in middle childhood, they will learn important peer relationship skills through games, sports, reading, writing, and other school-related activities. As they interact with their peers, they will practice role-taking abilities. The development of good friendships and the ability to adapt to peer groups are key for children during the middle childhood. The peer relationship provides a child with an opportunity to practice social skills and collaboration. There is no doubt that children will receive emotional and social support from peers who share common thoughts and feelings so that they can cope with developmental challenges. A child would need to achieve a sense of belongingness, according to Maslow's theory. Children will feel safe and belong when they have peer relationships. Children who fail to adapt to peer relationships are more likely to feel inferior and low in self-esteem. Healthy child development will be negatively affected by this. Children who feel inferior in this stage will lack self-confidence and normal self-esteem and will seek adult help to accomplish tasks. Cowen and colleagues (1973) demonstrated that the children identified as being at increased risk due to poor peer relationships suffered disproportionately from psychiatric troubles as adults. Poor peer relations have also been linked to discomfort, anxiety, and an unwillingness to participate in society (Hartup & Abecassis, 2002).

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?

A social cognition concept encompasses a wide range of mental abilities involved in interpreting social cues and responding to social stimuli. This combination of abilities facilitates social competence and adaptability development (Beaudoin and Beauchamp, 2020). A child's social cognition grows exponentially during the middle childhood, especially when it comes to social role-taking and interpersonal awareness. Children will learn about other people's perspectives, thoughts, feelings, and intentions. In this stage, children are able to perceive social cues and understand other people's emotions to some extent. Their ability to recognize and interpret social norms and expectations will eventually allow them to live a social life for the rest of their lives.

References

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