

Kelsey McCann

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

These children are in the industry vs. inferiority stage according to Erikson. In this stage children are trying to find their place among their peers. At this age, children are learning new skills that allow them to better communicate with their peers and start forming their own subculture. In this stage children are learning about rules and how they need to be followed fairly and have fair consequences as well as how to establish friendships and peer groups with greater social interactions.

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 play a crucial role in the social development in the lives of the child as well as a developing adult. Poor peer relationships have been correlated with discomfort, anxiety, and an inability or unwillingness to engage with the environment. Children also gain the ability to deal with anger and aggression when they are interacting with peers. Another thing that cannot happen, is sexual socialization. Without the influence of peers and peer influence, children cannot find out the difference between sex as well as other things that occur during sexual socialization. Peer relationships are also related to the role taking ability, empathy and moral reasoning. When interacting with peers, they will be able to take their cues from others and through socialization realize what is expected of them. Finally, children who are unable to socialize with their peers due to rejection, have a higher risk for delinquency, dropping out of school, and mental health issues.

