

Erikson's Theory Of Psychosocial Development - Stage 4 (School Age)

Erikson assumes that a psychosocial crisis occurs at each stage of development. Erikson believes psychological needs of an individual conflict with the needs of society. When children are 6-12 years old, at school, teachers begin to play an important role in the child's development. Erikson believes they must learn what are purposeful and meaningful activities so they can become competent, productive members of society.



PLAY PICMONIC

Age

School Age (6-12 Years)

[School Aged Children](#)

Erikson's fourth stage of psychosocial development occurs during age 6-12 years old.

Basic Conflict

Industry vs. Inferiority

[Industrial-building vs. In-fur](#)

During this stage, the child will gain greater significance and self esteem, and they try to win approval from parents, teachers and authorities by demonstrating specific competencies (learned skills) they believe are valued in society. Here, industry refers to purposeful and meaningful activities. If children master this conflict then they start developing a sense of pride in their ability to accomplish things. If a child does not start to feel industrious, they will start to feel inferior compared to those around them.

Important Events

School

[School](#)

At this age, children are learning to read, write, do math problems, and do more things on their own. At school and through social interactions, children develop a sense of pride in their abilities and their accomplishments.

Virtue

Competence

[Competence-computer](#)

During this stage, children will be taught specific skills, and the child is going to work towards becoming competent in those skills. Children who are encouraged and commended by parents and school teachers go on to develop a feeling of competence and confidence in themselves and their skills; overall they will start feeling industrious. Children who are not praised by their parents and teachers will doubt their ability to succeed.

Freud Stage

Latency

[Lay-in-tent](#)

The latency stage of psychosexual development is when no further psychosexual development takes place. Latent means hidden, and this stage is equivalent to sexual dormancy, or repression. The focus during this age is on school, learning skills and hobbies. During this stage, much of child's energy is directed towards developing new skills and acquiring knowledge.