

# Important Stage Theories from Developmental Psychology

## Sigmund Freud Psychosexual Development

Stage	Approximate Age	Focus
Oral	Birth – 18 months	pleasure centers on the mouth (sucking, biting, chewing)
Anal	18 -36 months	pleasure focuses on bowel and bladder elimination; coping with demands for control
Phallic	3 – 6 years	pleasure zone is the genitals; coping with incestuous sexual feelings
Latency	6 years – puberty	dormant sexual feelings
Genital	Puberty on	maturation of sexual interests

## Jean Piaget Cognitive Development

Stage	Age Range	Description of Stage	Developmental Phenomena
Sensorimotor	Birth – 2 years	experience world through senses, actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• object permanence</li> <li>• stranger anxiety</li> </ul>
Preoperational	2 – 7 years	mental representations with words & images; intuitive, rather than logical, reasoning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• pretend play</li> <li>• egocentrism</li> <li>• language development</li> </ul>
Concrete operational	7 – 11 years	logical thoughts about concrete events; concrete analogies & mathematical operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• conservation</li> <li>• mathematical transformations</li> </ul>
Formal operational	12 - adulthood	abstract reasoning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• abstract logic</li> <li>• potential for mature moral reasoning</li> </ul>

## Erik Erikson Psychosocial Development

Stage	Approximate Age	Issues/Conflict	Description of Task
Infancy	Birth – 1 year	Trust vs. mistrust	If needs are dependably met, infants develop a basic sense of trust.
Toddler	1 – 2 years	Autonomy vs. shame and doubt	Toddlers learn to exercise will and do things for themselves, or they doubt their abilities.
Preschool	3 – 5 years	Initiative vs. guilt	Preschoolers learn to initiate tasks and carry out plans, or they feel guilty about efforts to be independent.
Elementary school	6 years – puberty	Competence vs. inferiority	Children learn the pleasure of applying themselves to tasks, or they feel inferior.
Adolescence	Teen years – 20s	Identity vs. role confusion	Teenagers work at refining a sense of self by testing roles and then integrating them to form a single identity, or they become confused about who they are.
Young adulthood	20s – early 40s	Intimacy vs. isolation	Young adults struggle to form close relationships and to gain the capacity for intimate love, or they feel socially isolated.
Middle adulthood	40s – 60s	Generativity vs. stagnation	In middle age, people discover a sense of contributing to the world, usually through family and work, or they may feel a lack of purpose.
Late adulthood	60s and up	Integrity vs. despair	When reflecting on his or her life, the older adult may feel a sense of satisfaction or failure.

**Lawrence Kohlberg  
Moral Development**

<b>Stage</b>	<b>Typical Age Range</b>	<b>Description of Stage</b>
Preconventional	Birth – 9 years	Morality based on self-interest; avoid punishment or gain rewards
Conventional	9 years – early adolescence	Obey laws and rules purely <i>because</i> they are the laws and rules
Postconventional	Early adolescence – adulthood (only <i>for some</i> )	Morality based on personal, abstract values of right and wrong