

Comparison of major developmental theories.

DEVELOPMENTAL STAGE (APPROXIMATE AGE)	FREUD (PSYCHOSEXUAL DEVELOPMENT)	ERIKSON (PSYCHOSOCIAL DEVELOPMENT)	PIAGET (LOGICAL AND COGNITIVE DEVELOPMENT), PIAGET (MORAL DEVELOPMENT)	KOHLBERG (DEVELOPMENT OF MORAL REASONING)
Infancy (Birth to 18 months)	Oral stage	Basic Trust vs. Mistrust Ability to trust others/sense of own trustworthiness versus withdrawal and estrangement	Sensorimotor period Stage 1—reflexes cause actions Stage 2—repeats pleasing actions Stage 3—makes interesting action last, finds partially hidden object	
Early childhood/toddler (18 months to 3 years)	Anal stage	Autonomy vs. Shame and Doubt Self-control without loss of self-esteem Ability to cooperate/express self-versus compulsive compliance; defiance	Stage 4—coordinates more than one action, finds hidden object Stage 5—tries new actions to see what happens Stage 6—holds idea for later action Preoperational period Preconceptual—uses symbols (language, play) to recall past, represent present, and anticipate future	Level I—preconventional level Stage 1—punishment and obedience orientation—obeys rules to avoid punishment
Preschool (3-5 years)	Phallic stage (Oedipus complex; Electra complex)	Initiative vs. Guilt Realistic sense of purpose/able to evaluate own behaviour versus self-denial/self-restriction	Intuitive—increased use of symbols; ability to see simple relationships Egocentric—can see things from only one point of view Heteronomous morality—follows rules of those in authority	
Childhood (6-12 years)	Latent stage	Industry vs. Inferiority Realisation of competence/perseverance versus feeling one will never be any	Concrete operations period Developing logical thinking related to concrete tasks that are immediate and	Level I—preconventional level Stage 2—instrumental relativist orientation—

		good, withdrawal from school and peers	physically present	conforms to obtain rewards or favours
Early adolescence (12-14 years)	Genital stage	Identity vs. Role Confusion Coherent sense of self/plan to actualise abilities versus feelings of confusion/indecisiveness or antisocial behaviour	Formal operations period Stage 1 (preconventional)—ability to think in abstract manner develops, scientific reasoning emerges Concern about satisfying own needs Autonomous morality—moral judgments based on mutual respect for the rules and mutual regard for person	Level II—conventional level Stage 3—good boy-nice girl orientation—seeks good relations and approval of family group; orientation to interpersonal relations of mutuality
Middle adolescence (14-16 years)	Genital stage	Identity vs. Role Confusion	Formal operations period Stage 2 (conventional)—ability to order ideas— and possibilities	Level II—conventional level Stage 4—society-maintaining orientation—obedience to law and order in society; maintenance of social order— shows respect for authority
Late adolescence (17-21 years)	Genital stage	Identity vs. Role Confusion	Formal operations period Stage 3—true formal thought: construction of all possible combinations of relations; deductive hypothesis testing	Level III—postconventional level Stage 5—social contract orientation—concern with individual rights and legal contract; social contract; utilitarian lawmaking perspective Level III—postconventional level Stage 6—universal ethical principle orientation—higher law and conscience orientation; orientation to internal decisions of conscience but without clear rationale or universal principles