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Working with Vulnerable Youth: LGBT Youth in Foster Care

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The needs of Foster Children

Questions Asked

- Who Am I?
- Where did I come From?
- What do I Want to Become?

Piaget's Stages of Cognitive Operations

Stage	Age	Description
Sensorimotor	0-2 yrs	The infant is egocentric, he/she gradually learns to coordinate sensory & motor activities & develop a beginning sense of objects existing apart from the self.
Preoperational	2-7 yrs	The child remains primarily egocentric but discovers rules (regularities) that can be applied to new incoming information. The child tends to overgeneralize rules, however, & thus makes many cognitive errors.
Concrete Operations	7-11 yrs	The child can solve concrete problems through the application of logical problem-solving strategies
Formal Operations	11+	The person becomes able to solve real & hypothetical problems using abstract concepts.

Erik Erikson's Stage of Development

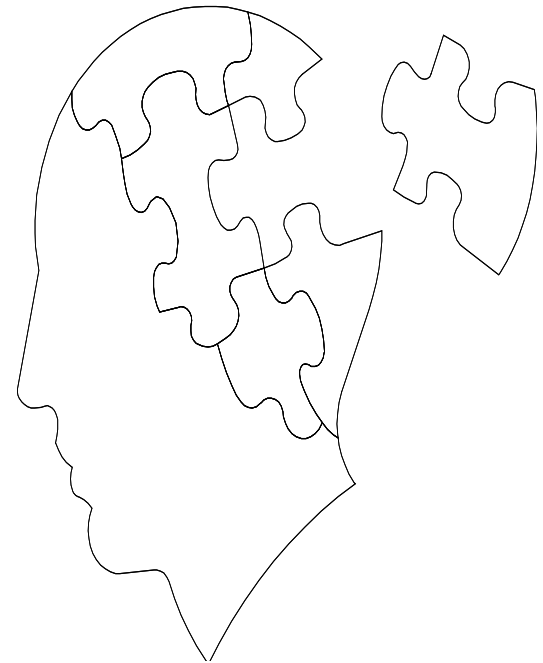
#	Stage Name/Age	Ego Strength	Comment
4	Industry vs Inferiority 6-12 Years	Competence	Crisis is in striving for competence.
5	Identity vs Role Confusion 12-17 Years	Fidelity	Identity crisis =uncertainty about the future & child's role in it.
6	Intimacy vs Isolation Young Adulthood	Love	Crisis is focused on the ability to lose oneself in a committed relationship.

Status Change

- Interpersonal Status
- Political Status
- Economic Status
- Legal Status

Identity Formation

- Future Orientation
- Role Experimentation
- Exploration
- Self-Evaluation



Elements of Identity

- Social Status
- Membership Groups
- Labels
- Derived Statuses
- Social Types
- Personal Identities
- Physical Characteristics



Communication

Types of Messages

- Explicit
 - Directly stating message
 - Metaphors
 - Use of a word or phrase that represents another condition
- Implicit
 - Implying message
 - Message hidden in what is said and not said

An Ecological View of Child Maltreatment

- Community Deficits
- Societal Attitudes
- Poverty
- Race & Ethnicity
- Family Structure
- Substance Abuse
- Domestic Violence
- Animal Abuse
- Parental Characteristics
- Child Characteristics

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Types of Foster Care

- Formal Kinship Care
- Family Foster Care
- Foster Parents and the Agency
- Types of Family Foster Homes
 - Shelter Homes
 - Long-term
- Specialized and Treatment Foster Care
- Shared Family Care
- Residential Group Care
- Agency Group Homes
- Independent Living Services

Postadoption Services

- Bonding and Attachment
 - Symptoms of children with attachment problems.
Problems with:
 - conscience development
 - Impulse control
 - Self-esteem
 - Interpersonal interactions
 - Expression and recognition of their own and others' feelings
 - A variety of developmental difficulties

Problems of Children and Young Persons

1. Being Poor Means Being at Risk
2. Negative Peer Influence, Violence, and Substance Abuse
3. Children of Vulnerable Families
4. Measuring the Well-Being of America's Children