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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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Stage Name/Age</th>
<th>Ego Strength</th>
<th>Comment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Industry vs Inferiority 6-12 Years</td>
<td>Competence</td>
<td>Crisis is in striving for competence.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Identity vs Role Confusion 12-17 Years</td>
<td>Fidelity</td>
<td>Identity crisis = uncertainty about the future &amp; child’s role in it.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Intimacy vs Isolation Young Adulthood</td>
<td>Love</td>
<td>Crisis is focused on the ability to lose oneself in a committed relationship.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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
An Ecological View of Child Maltreatment

- Community Deficits
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- Child Characteristics
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