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Erik Erikson’s Stages In Children’s Emotional Development*					
FOCUS ↓	INFANCY First Year	EARLY CHILDHOOD Second & Third Year	PLAY AGE Forth & Fifth Year	SCHOOL AGE Sixth thru Eleventh Year	ADOLESCENCE Twelfth thru Eighteenth Year
HOPE	Basic Trust vs Basic Mistrust Growth out of consistent reliable physical and emotional care that meets the child's basic needs. Inconsistent or poor care leads to delay.				
WILL		Autonomy vs Doubt and Shame Child learns to make independent choices with confidence. Child tests to learn if they can survive being away from parents for brief periods. Harsh or over protective or neglectful care prevent self trust.			
PURPOSE			Initiative vs Guilt Through taking risks, observing, imitating, and fantasizing a sense of personal initiative develops. A sense of right and wrong grows. Harsh treatment leads to feelings of guilt and worthlessness.		
COMPETENCE				Industry vs Inadequacy Child uses safe relationships to learn skills, solve problems and develop a sense of accomplishment. Without consistent support child feels defeated, discouraged and inferior.	
FIDELITY					Identity vs Role Confusion Building on all prior stages child learns to see their abilities realistically and to develop their talents in preparation for adult life. The child finds their place in the world. With inhibited or stunted prior stages child's identity remains confused and full maturity will be delayed.

\*Paraphrased from , Erik Erikson, Childhood and Society, 1950

**NOTE:** Every child’s progress through these stages is dependent upon a safe, consistent, loving and structured relationship with nurturing parents. (Who have gone thru the stages.)