

Erikson's Stages × Bronfenbrenner's Systems

Erikson's Stage	Bronfenbrenner System	How the System Shapes Stage Resolution
Trust vs. Mistrust Infancy (0-18 months) <i>Will the world meet my needs?</i>	MICROSYSTEM Immediate Family	Family provides consistent, responsive caregiving Feeding, comfort, predictable routines, emotional availability Inconsistent care → Mistrust develops Result: Trust requires stable microsystem
Autonomy vs. Shame Toddler (1-3 years) <i>Can I do things myself?</i>	MICROSYSTEM	Parents allow safe exploration vs. overcontrol Supportive environment enables independence practice Shaming or excessive criticism → Doubt develops
Initiative vs. Guilt Preschool (3-6 years) <i>Can I plan and lead?</i>	MICROSYSTEM	Caregivers encourage exploration and planning vs. restrict Overly critical or controlling environments → Excessive guilt Toxic microsystem causes "failed" stage
Industry vs. Inferiority School Age (6-12 years) <i>Can I master skills?</i> (Case Study: Maya)	MICROSYSTEM + MESOSYSTEM	School environment: Class size, teacher attention, peer interactions Home-school connection: Parent-teacher communication Exosystem: School funding affects resources available Supportive systems → Competence Failed systems → Inferiority
Identity vs. Role Confusion Adolescence (12-18 years) <i>Who am I?</i>	MESOSYSTEM + EXOSYSTEM	School-peer-family interactions provide identity exploration space Peer acceptance/rejection shapes which identities are tried Parental workplace stress reduces emotional availability Job loss/work hours limit opportunities for exploration Multiple system layers shape identity formation
Intimacy vs. Isolation Young Adult (18-40) <i>Can I love and commit?</i>	MICROSYSTEM + Mesosystem	Romantic relationships, friendships, work relationships Work-life balance affects relationship capacity Social support networks facilitate or hinder intimacy
Generativity vs. Stagnation Middle Adult (40-65) <i>Can I contribute to future generations?</i>	MACROSYSTEM	Cultural values define what "contributing" means Individualist: Career achievement Collectivist: Family care Economic policies enable/obstruct generativity Parental leave, childcare, healthcare access shape contribution Macrosystem dictates forms and feasibility of generativity
Integrity vs. Despair Late Adult (65+) <i>Was my life meaningful?</i>	MACROSYSTEM + Chronosystem	Cultural attitudes toward aging affect life review Historical era shapes what was possible/valued Social support, healthcare, retirement systems affect wellbeing