

Erickson Application

For each of the examples given below, identify which of Erikson's eight stages of social development best matches the example. Briefly explain your choices.

1) Sarah's children are all in high school and college. Sarah works as an assistant manager at a small department store, and most of what she earns goes toward paying her children's college tuition. Her own children lead busy lives with friends and school activities occupying most of their time, so Sarah volunteers one evening each week at a nearby foster care facility. She enjoys reading bedtime stories to the young children housed here.

2) Sammy wants to pour the milk on his cereal all by himself. When mommy starts to pour the milk, he puts his hands over the bowl and shouts, "NO! ME DO IT!"

3) Timmy is concerned with how he compares to his peers. For example, he always wants to know if he can kick the ball farther or read better than his friends.

4) Beverly is fascinated by her father's garden. One day dad allows Beverly to accompany him outside while he works in the garden, and she is excited about the prospect of helping out. Dad, however, decides that Beverly is too young to help, and he encourages her to play with her toys instead. When dad stops to chat with a neighbor, Beverly takes the hoe and tries to dig up weeds as she has seen her father do. Of course, she is not very good at this and she ends up cutting down a tomato vine along with the weeds. Her father is quite upset and scolds her harshly.

5) John finds himself thinking more about himself -- who he is, what he really is like inside as a person, how he relates to others and so on. He thinks a lot about his religious beliefs, his political views, and his views on significant social issues.

6) Hannah sees Dr. Eppler teaching Elizabeth how to knit, and Hannah begs us to also teach her how to knit. That same day, Hannah also pleads to be allowed to help make Elizabeth's birthday cake.