

Erikson's Stages of Psychosocial Development of Children and Christian Education Formation

Giving attention to the developmental and corporate social development of children can inform congregational programming design for Christian Education Formation. Erikson's epigenetic schema can identify the critical stages of spiritual formation of children and provide hints as to what areas of formation, and when, a congregation needs to address. For example, focusing on the psychosocial "virtues" can hint as to the educational content, processes, and contexts in which to address the Christian Education formation needs of children, and their families, of the congregation. The "Maladaptations & malignancies" can caution us about those facets and components of religion (and religiosity) may be toxic during the formative stages of development.

<i>Stage (age)</i>	<i>Psychosocial crisis</i>	<i>Significant relations</i>	<i>Psychosocial modalities</i>	<i>Psychosocial virtues</i>	<i>Maladaptations & malignancies</i>
<i>I (0-1) -- infant</i>	trust vs mistrust	mother	to get, to give in return	hope, faith	sensory distortion; withdrawal
<i>II (2-3) -- toddler</i>	autonomy vs shame and doubt	parents	to hold on, to let go	will, determination	Impulsivity, compulsion
<i>III (3-6) -- preschooler</i>	initiative vs guilt	family	to go after, to play	purpose, courage	Ruthlessness; inhibition
<i>IV (7-12 or so) school-age</i>	industry vs inferiority	Neighborhood, school, church	to complete, to make things together	competence	narrow virtuosity; inertia