

Table 1: Developmental Perspective of How Children Understand and Cope with Healthcare Experiences

Developmental Age Group	Erikson	Plaget	Hospitalization Issues
Infant (0-1 year)	<p>Trust vs. Mistrust</p> <p>Children develop a sense of trust when caregivers provide reliability, care, and affection. A lack of these characteristics can lead to mistrust.</p>	<p>Sensorimotor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Learns by exploring self and environment and by manipulating objects using senses - Begins to understand cause and effect 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Separation • Lack of stimulation • Pain • Loss of routine • Inconsistent caregiving • Overstimulation • Inconsistent response
Toddler (1-3 years)	<p>Autonomy vs. Shame and Doubt</p> <p>Children strive for a sense of control and independence. Success in this stage leads to feelings of self-sufficiency while failure may cause a sense of insecurity and self-doubt.</p>	<p>Sensorimotor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Begins to use symbols to represent objects - Tries different things to get different results - Has difficulty conceptualizing time - Is egocentric 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Separation • Immobility or restriction • Loss of routine • Unfamiliar people/environments
Preschooler (3-6 years)	<p>Initiative vs. Guilt</p> <p>Children seek ways to assert control and power over their environment. Success in this stage leads to a sense of purpose and mastery, but if adults dismiss or discourage the pursuit of independence, children may develop a sense of guilt about their needs and desires.</p>	<p>Preoperational</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Is oriented to the present - Thinks intuitively, not logically - Uses symbols to represent objects - Has difficulty conceptualizing time - Is egocentric - Has vivid fantasies - Thinks magically 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Separation • Fear of bodily injury and pain • Misconceptions and frightening fantasies • Belief that a procedure or exam is meant as a form of punishment for a wrongdoing
School-ager (6-12 years)	<p>Industry vs. Inferiority</p> <p>Children are learning how to cope with new social and academic demands. Success leads to a sense of competence while failure may produce feelings of inferiority and dependency.</p>	<p>Concrete Operations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Is able to make rational judgments of observable phenomena - Has difficulty understanding abstract concepts - Is better able to see how multiple factors may influence an event 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fear of bodily injury, mutilation, and pain • Fear of loss of control • Fear of loss of mastery • Fear of illness, disability, and death
Adolescent (12-18 years)	<p>Identity vs. Identity Confusion</p> <p>Adolescents are developing a sense of self and identity. Success leads to self-assurance and a strong identity while failure may lead to role confusion and a weak sense of self.</p>	<p>Formal Operations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Is capable of hypothetical and deductive reasoning - Is able to understand and recall a series of events - Is able to generalize concepts and think abstractly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dependence on adults • Separation from peers • Fear of loss of identity • Body image and sexuality concerns • Fear of not fitting in with peer group • Fear of illness, disability, and death

Adapted from *Artists to Artist-in-Residence: Preparing Artists to Work in Pediatric Healthcare Settings* (p. 24) by J. Rollins and C. Mahan, 1996, Washington, DC: Rollins & Associates. Copyright 1996 by Rollins & Associates.