Discussion

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The fourth stage of Erickson’s theory, Industry vs. Inferiority, encompasses the psychosocial development of middle-aged children. This is the age where children learn from their peers and develop the urge to gain sanction of others by performing up to the standards that are valued by society. They find pleasure in personal achievements (Issawi & Dauphin, 2017). According to Erickson’s theory, when children are appreciated for their accomplishments, they gain confidence and self-satisfaction. They tend to improve their skills even further. However, if they are underappreciated by their peers and elders or their efforts go unnoticed, they begin to doubt themselves and lose the courage to reach their true potential. They may also think that society exerts unrealistic pressure. In addition to this, a balance between competence and modesty is required for success.

To initiate the development of social skills, parents and teachers should teach children proper responses and greetings (Lawson, 2003). For some children, socialization and new interactions may be difficult. They may also face problems while expressing their views and issues. Numerous activities should be conducted to enhance their exposure and improve their ability of expression. Starting from simpler activities and then leading to comparatively complex tasks can help the children become comfortable with new situations. Adopting healthy hobbies and participating in school plays and competitions will provide them opportunities to interact with others and learn from them. In this way, children will develop effective communication skills with their elders and classmates. The children should be encouraged to look in the eye of the person they are communicating with and convey their message or opinions with full confidence. However, this intervention will require practice and time. Another helpful intervention is to organize activities where the family can work and spend time together. On any occasion, the chores can be divided among everyone. Children can be assigned manageable chores which seem interesting to them. This will result in children learning about teamwork and practicing cooperation.

References

Issawi, S., & Dauphin, B. (2017). *Industry Versus Inferiority*. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-28099-8\_593-1

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