

	inferiority	beginning logic) (7 to 11 years old)	level
			Good-boy, nice-girl orientation
			Law-and-order orientation
Genital	Identity vs. role confusion	Formal operations (deductive and abstract reasoning) (11 to 15 years old)	Postconventional or principled level
			Social-contract orientation

Theoretical Foundations of Personality Development

Psychosexual Development (Freud)

According to Freud, all human behavior is energized by psychodynamic forces, and this psychic energy is divided among three components of personality: the id, ego, and superego (Freud, 1933). The **id**, the **unconscious mind**, is the inborn component that is driven by instincts. The id obeys the pleasure principle of immediate gratification of needs, regardless of whether the object or action can actually do so. The **ego**, the **conscious mind**, serves the reality principle. It functions as the conscious or controlling self that is able to find realistic means for gratifying the instincts while blocking the irrational thinking of the id. The **superego**, the **conscience**, functions as the moral arbitrator and represents the ideal. It is the mechanism that prevents individuals from expressing undesirable instincts that might threaten the social order.

Freud considered the sexual instincts to be significant in the development of the personality (Freud, 1964). However, he used the term *psychosexual* to describe any sensual pleasure. During childhood, certain regions of the body assume a prominent psychological significance as the source of new pleasures and new conflicts gradually shifts from one part of the body to another at particular stages of development:

Oral stage (birth to 1 year old): During infancy, the major source of pleasure seeking is centered on oral activities, such as sucking, biting, chewing, and vocalizing. Children may prefer one of these over the others, and the preferred method of oral gratification can provide some indication of the personality they develop.