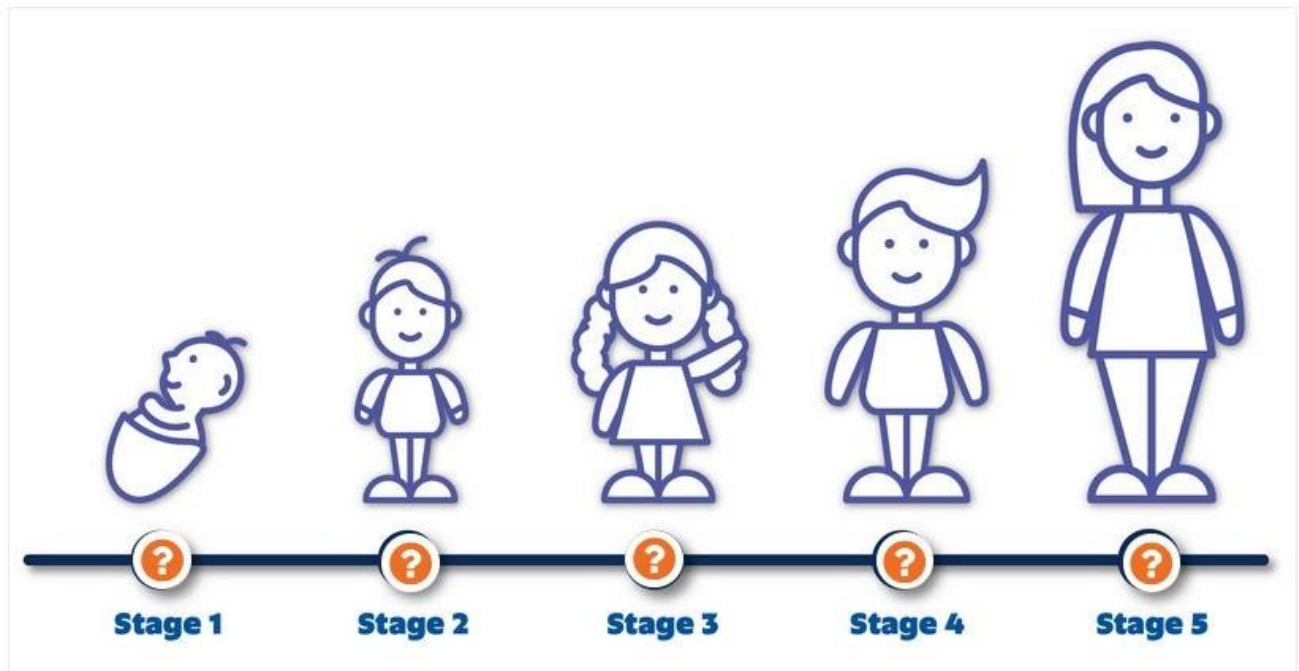


Timeline of normal development



Stage 1: 0 to 1 year

Trust versus Mistrust

At this stage, the infant is dealing with the internal conflict of trust versus mistrust of their carer and the world in general. This is learnt by the carer consistently providing nurturance and responding to the infants' cries. Given this secure environment and carer the infant adopts the concept of basic trust. This is created by routine and consistency organised by the carer; they learn to trust that their carer will return when out of sight. This translates into the general sense of trust in other adults and the notion that the world is a safe place.

Stage 2: 1 – 3 years

Autonomy versus Shame and Doubt

The infant becomes a toddler; they learn the simple skills of language and refine their motor skills, beginning with crawling and then walking. This stage is characterised by independence from the carer. The toddler learns that they control their behaviour; they learn impulse control, independence and self-restraint. Mastering toileting, motor and language skills helps the toddler learn autonomy and move through to the next stage.

Stage 3: 3 – 6 years

Initiative versus Guilt

The toddler becomes a child; they often begin kindergarten and then pre-school. They begin to explore different adult roles through play and identify themselves with their significant carers. Through mastery of skills in previous developmental stages the child has become egocentric; in contrast they also begin to realise that some of their behaviour is socially more acceptable than others. The conflict during this stage stems from these contradictory thoughts.

Stage 4: 7 – 12 years

Industry versus Inferiority

The child enters their social prime. They develop a sense of personal satisfaction and competence by learning new skills and how to get along with peers. They also begin to seek and receive recognition from others for becoming productive members of society (usually associated with schooling). Newly acquired skills include the understanding of more abstract concepts including: the ability to distinguish fantasy from reality, understand time and space, and the development of an appreciation for real life danger.

Stage 5: 12 – 18 years

Identity versus Role Confusion

Adolescence begins, puberty takes over and the child prepares for early adulthood. This stage is generally marked by experimentation to find the self. The adolescent returns to the egocentric phase and embark on their quest to find out how they fit into the world, what their role will be in society and what their identity will be. Probably the most concerning (as perceived by the carer) experimentation evident during this stage is risk taking through drug and alcohol experimentation and sexual exploration.