

PTHOPS003 Pathfinder Developmental Theories

PATHFINDER SPECIALIST AWARD



April 2010

DEVELOPMENTAL THEORIES

- Developed in the 20th century in an attempt to understand the way humans develop from the time they are born.
- Development occurs in a series of well-defined stages that involve intellectual, emotional, moral and faith development.
- Developmental theories help leaders better understand the Pathfinders in their care.



STAGES OF COGNITIVE DEVELOPMENT

- Theory developed by Jean Piaget.
- Piaget observed that children's thought processes are inherently different from those of adults and through further research was able to define and describe stages of cognitive development.
- **CONCRETE OPERATIONS** (ages 7-11): Logic is tied to real, concrete things; logic of classes and relations; understanding of the concept of numbers.
- **FORMAL OPERATIONS** (ages 11-15): Able to think abstractly, theorise, idealise and dream; fully capable of adult thinking and reasoning.



STAGES OF EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Theory developed by Erik Erikson.
- As a trained psychoanalyst, Erikson had a special interest in children as well as how the consciousness (or ego) operated in ordinary people.
- 8 stages of emotional development.
- **COMPETENCE** (age 7-11): Industry v Inferiority.
Comparing of self with others to determine self-worth;
Recognition of major differences in personal abilities.
- **FIDELITY** (age 12-18): Identity v Role Confusion.
Who am I? How do I fit in? Where am I going in life? Not “who I am” but “who I can be”.

STAGES OF MORAL DEVELOPMENT

- Theory developed by Lawrence Kohlberg.
- As a professor of education and social psychology, Kohlberg had an interest in and observed how people developed morally.
- 6 stages of moral development.
- **LAW AND ORDER (age 7-11):** All lawbreakers should be punished despite good reasons for breaking the law.
- **QUESTIONING THE REASON FOR LAWS AND RULES (age 12-18):** Looking at the reasons behind the laws.

STAGES OF FAITH DEVELOPMENT

- Theory developed by James Fowler.
- As a professor of education and social psych., Kohlberg had an interest/observed how people developed morally.
- 6 stages of faith development.
- **MYSTIC-LITERAL [Reasoner] (age 7-11):** Distinguish fantasy from reality; God is viewed as faithful and law; attention give to the rest of the world.
- **SYNTHETIC-CONVENTIONAL FAITH [Ecumenist] (age 12-18):** Synthetic in that they have developed their own belief system from their past; Conventional in that they adopt beliefs from their community; able to change depending on who they are with.

Abraham Maslow's HIERARCHY OF NEEDS



**Level 5:
Self Actualization**

Develop potential and achieve worthwhile things.

**Level 4:
Esteem**

Respect of others, reputation, dignity, self respect, confidence, freedom.

**Level 3:
Love and Belonging**

Friends, sense of community.

**Level 2:
Safety and Security**

Safe location, protection, security.

Level 1: Physiology

Shelter, water, food, proper temperature.

GENERATIONAL THEORIES

- **BUILDERS (1925-1945):** Also known as traditionalists, silent generation.
- **BABY BOOMERS (1946-1964)**
- **GENERATION X (1965-1983)**
- **GENERATION Y (1984-1995)** *also known as Millennials*
- **GENERATION Z (1996-2010):** *also known as Generation I, iGeneration, internet generation*
- **GENERATION ALPHA (2010+)**

GENERATION Z

- 1996 onwards
- Internet, DVDs, iPhone
- Care less about fame and fortune, more about their parents
- May return to more traditional values
- Happiness is a main priority
- Highly knowledgeable
- Highly connected (internet, phone)
- First generation to see parents and children embrace technology together

GENERATION Z

- **Have friends they never meet**
- **Experts in multitasking**
- **Invent a new language of communication**
- **Ultra independent (single child families)**
- **Equality of sexes in the home**
- **Digital natives**
- **Involve them in developing programs**
- **Decisions based on their peers**

A Pathfinder's PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

- Rapid growth spurts around 11-12 years
- Physical changes can be dramatic
- May experience stages of awkwardness or clumsiness
- Feelings of self-consciousness
- Very aware of how they compare with others
- Hormonal surges; awareness of opposite sex

A Pathfinder's EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- **Seeking to discover where they fit in**
- **Realisation that no one is equal**
- **Realisation that everyone has different skills**
- **Discovery of their own skills**
- **Seeking to discover how they fit in**



A Pathfinder's INTELLECTUAL DEVELOPMENT

- Transition from concrete to abstract thinking
- Younger Pathfinders will enjoy facts, collections, quizzes etc.
- Older Pathfinders are challenged by discussions, questions, exploration, creativity etc.
- Older Pathfinders have a sense of freedom of thought.



A Pathfinder's MORAL DEVELOPMENT

- Younger Pathfinders see rules and justice as being very important.
- Older Pathfinders challenge justice.
- Older Pathfinders want to know the reason for rules and justice.

SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

- **Every element of Pathfinderism should be tailored to impart a knowledge of Jesus to each Pathfinder.**
- **It is important to understand the spiritual development of Pathfinders in order for them respond according to their stage of development.**

John Westerhoff III and FAITH DEVELOPMENT

- **Westerhoff III was the first person to outline a model of faith development.**
- **He believed that faith was an active word involving not only belief, but the process of believing.**
- **He proposed that spiritual development was like the rings of a tree which increased in number, slowly and gradually.**
- **SEARCHING FAITH (age 12-30): Establishment of faith identity by critical judgment; a connection of what they know about Jesus with what they feel about Him.**

Bailey Gillespie and SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

- 7 stages of spiritual development
- **REFLECTED FAITH (age 7-12):** The child imitates the example of faith that is shown in their community.
- **PERSONALISED FAITH (age 13-15):** The individual begins to establish their own faith beliefs; a time of questioning and experiencing what faith is.
- **ESTABLISHED FAITH (age 16-18):** An extension of the previous stage; the establishment of their faith outside of the family; realisation of belonging to a faith community; practical faith.

Pathfinder Staff

PROMOTING SPIRITUAL GROWTH

1. **Being committed to Jesus Christ.**
2. **Being flexible to meet the different needs of the group.**
3. **Taking the time to learn new skills needed for Pathfinder leadership.**
4. **Completing any relevant child protection or police checks.**
5. **Loving each Pathfinder as a special member of the club.**
6. **Being role models.**
7. **Positive spiritual atmosphere promoted by the staff.**



The Pathfinder Club

PROMOTING SPIRITUAL GROWTH

1. Acknowledging the rights of each individual.
2. A safe haven from negative behaviour.
3. A positive and happy environment.
4. A opportunity for adventure.
5. Learning leadership skills.
6. A stable place for Pathfinder from unstable homes.
7. Welcoming and accepting environment.
8. A window into the church community.
9. An opportunity to witness to non-SDA/Christian contacts.

The Pathfinder Program

PROMOTING SPIRITUAL GROWTH

1. Interesting and varied program.
2. Creative and relevant worships.
3. Class time promoting fellowship.
4. Special events to create spiritually high moments.
5. Involvement of individual Pathfinders in the program.
6. Camping in God's creation.

