

INDUSTRY VERSUS INFERIORITY

Erikson's stage for the school-age child is industry versus inferiority. Industry is a sense of cooperation, a sense of working by oneself or with others to accomplish tasks. Industry involves the child learning the proper attitude toward work and gaining proper work ethics.

Organizations or lessons outside of the home are great stepping stones toward reaching this sense of industry. These organization include 4-H, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and community sporting teams. Lessons in dance, gymnastics, music, swimming, tennis, and the arts are all important. During the school-age years, the child should have a sense of heightened appropriate responsibility to gain a feeling of industry. If the child doesn't gain industry, he/she feels inferiority. This comes as a result of poor work habits and work ethics, too much competition, and a feeling of uselessness. This can happen if the child has a lack of knowledge or skill to be able to fulfill a task. Parents, caregivers, and teachers need to assist children who need help with tasks and praise children for tasks completed or at doing one's best to achieve the task.