

2019 National RHY Grantees Training  
for  
RHYTTAC

**“Cultural Competency in Community Engagement”**

Fort Lauderdale Marriott  
3030 Holiday Drive  
Fort Lauderdale, Florida

**Co-Presenter: Dr. Mary Sims-Johnson, MSW, LCSW  
Executive Director, Madison County Citizens Services Agency**

**November 13, 2019  
2:45 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.**

“Peace is the cessation of againstness. If you want peace, stop fighting. When you’re not against yourself or others, you are at peace. Peace. Be still.”

The Portable LIFE 101



First keep the peace within yourself, then you can also bring peace to others.

Thomas `a Kempis 1420

## The Impact of Culturally Competent Services

1. Creates and maintains trust
2. Influences a high quality of service outcomes
3. A promising approach to promote positive outcomes among racial, ethnic and diverse populations
4. Reduces social services disparities
5. Builds respect and positive working relationships
6. Supports client engagement and connectivity from a cultural perspective
7. Satisfied customers internal and external
8. Empowerment of employees
9. Optimal productivity of employees
10. Personal place and self-actualization
11. Organizational service effectiveness

References: Research Brief, OPRE Report #2014-31

[www.acf.hhs.gov/opre](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/opre)

Martha A. Alexander, Management Consultant, 1994

## 10 Reasons to Strive for Cultural Competence

1. Ensure that case issues are viewed from the cultural perspective of the child and/or family:
  - a. Take into account cultural norms, practices, traditions, intrafamilial relationships, roles, kinship ties, and other culturally appropriate values.
  - b. Advocates for demonstrated sensitivity to this cultural perspective on the part of caseworkers, service providers, caregivers, or others involved with the child and the family.

## 10 Reasons to Strive for Cultural Competence, cont.

2. Ensures that the child's long-term needs are viewed from a culturally appropriate perspective:
  - a. Takes into account the child's need to develop and maintain a positive self-image and cultural heritage.
  - b. Takes into account the child's need to positively identify and interact with those "Like" himself/herself.
3. Prevents cultural practices from being mistaken for child maltreatment or family dysfunctions.
4. Assists with identifying "Real" issues of parental noncompliance versus culturally inappropriate or non-inclusive service delivery.

## 10 Reasons to Strive for Cultural Competence, cont.

5. Contributes to more accurate assessment of child's welfare, family system, available support systems, placement needs, services needed, and delivery.
6. Prevents cross-cultural communication clashes and decreases opportunity for misunderstandings.
7. Allows family to utilize culturally appropriate solutions in problem solving.
8. Encourages participation of family members in seeking assistance or support.
9. Recognizes, appreciates, and incorporates cultural differences in ways that promote cooperation.
10. Allows all participants to be heard objectively.

## Barriers to Culturally Competency

1. Continued acceptance of the myth of the melting pot-It blames people of color for failing to melt.
2. Assumption that all who come to America will be overjoyed to be here (some people may be depressed or unhappy about leaving their country).
3. Tendency to explain people's behavior by reference to their culture or disability (Multicultural groups and disabilities are heterogenous/different).
4. An attempt to be color-blind. Treat everyone a like. Pretends that culture and experiences have no role in determining behavior.
5. Our tendency to assume that words mean the same thing to everyone.
6. Assuming that clients think as you do.
7. Expecting that clients will understand the social worker's role.
8. There is an insufficient knowledge of self-awareness.
9. There is an absence of a repertoire of effective and multicultural intervention techniques.
10. There is the lack of knowledge of the culture and experiences of specific groups that are likely to receive agency services.

## Some Obstacles to the Practice of Cultural Competence

- Denial
- Insecurity
- Stubbornness
- Contentiousness
- Resistance
- Oppression
- Ignorance
- Moral Bankruptcy
- Isolation
- Neutrality
- Intimidation
- Narrow-mindedness

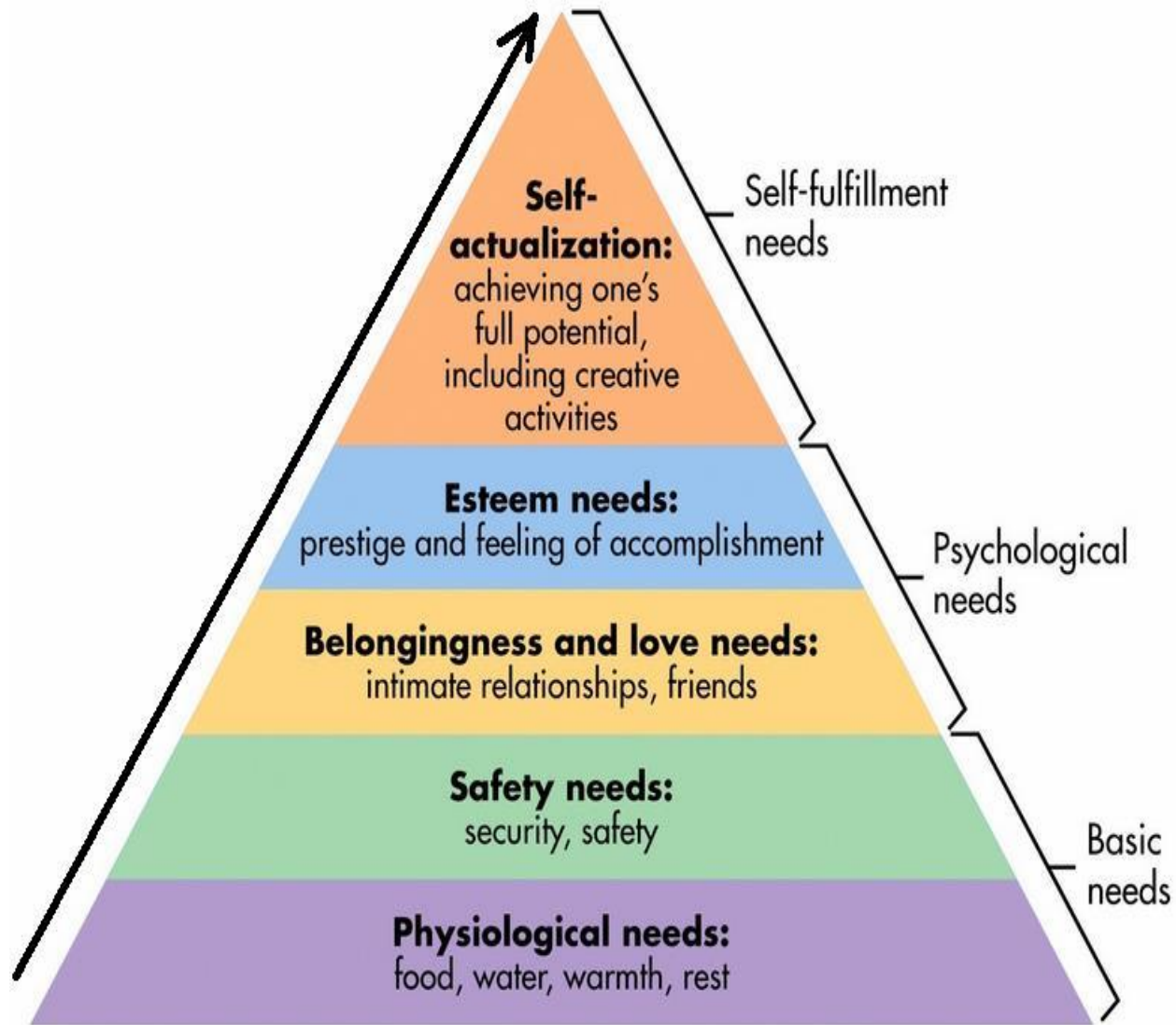
### References:

Martha A. Alexander, Management Consultant, 1994  
Kirst-Ashman, K. K. & Hull, G. H., 2009



## Strategies, Approaches and Models to Enhance Cultural Competence

1. Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs
2. The Three Components of Cultural Competence
3. Cultural Competence Within Social Service Organizations
4. Models:
  1. Social Ecological Model
  2. Developmental/Structural Model
  3. Circumplex Model
  4. Family Systems Model
5. Adolescent Stage of Development-Erik Erikson
6. The Generalist Intervention Model (GIM)



## Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs: Theory, Needs, Pyramid

<https://studiousguy.com/maslows-hierarchy-of-needs/>

# Three Components of Cultural Competence

## 1. Personal Traits:

- Be aware of your own values regarding cultural differences
- The ability to assess how one's own personal values might present barriers or support the worker/client relationship
- The ability to combine genuineness, honesty and empathy while building working relationships across cultures.

## 2. Knowledge:

- A knowledge of the history and traditions that affirm and reinforce diverse cultures
- Knowledge of individual differences within the cultural group. Avoid stereotypes and generalizations when working with diverse populations
- An understanding of family dynamics and the flexibility of roles within families of other cultures
- Knowledge of resources within the ethnic community.

## 3. Skills:

- The ability to utilize skills that are ethnically and culturally focused in intervention and service delivery to clients.
- The ability to communicate effectively cross-culturally with diverse groups.
- The ability to utilize empowerment concepts in working with culturally diverse clients and their communities.

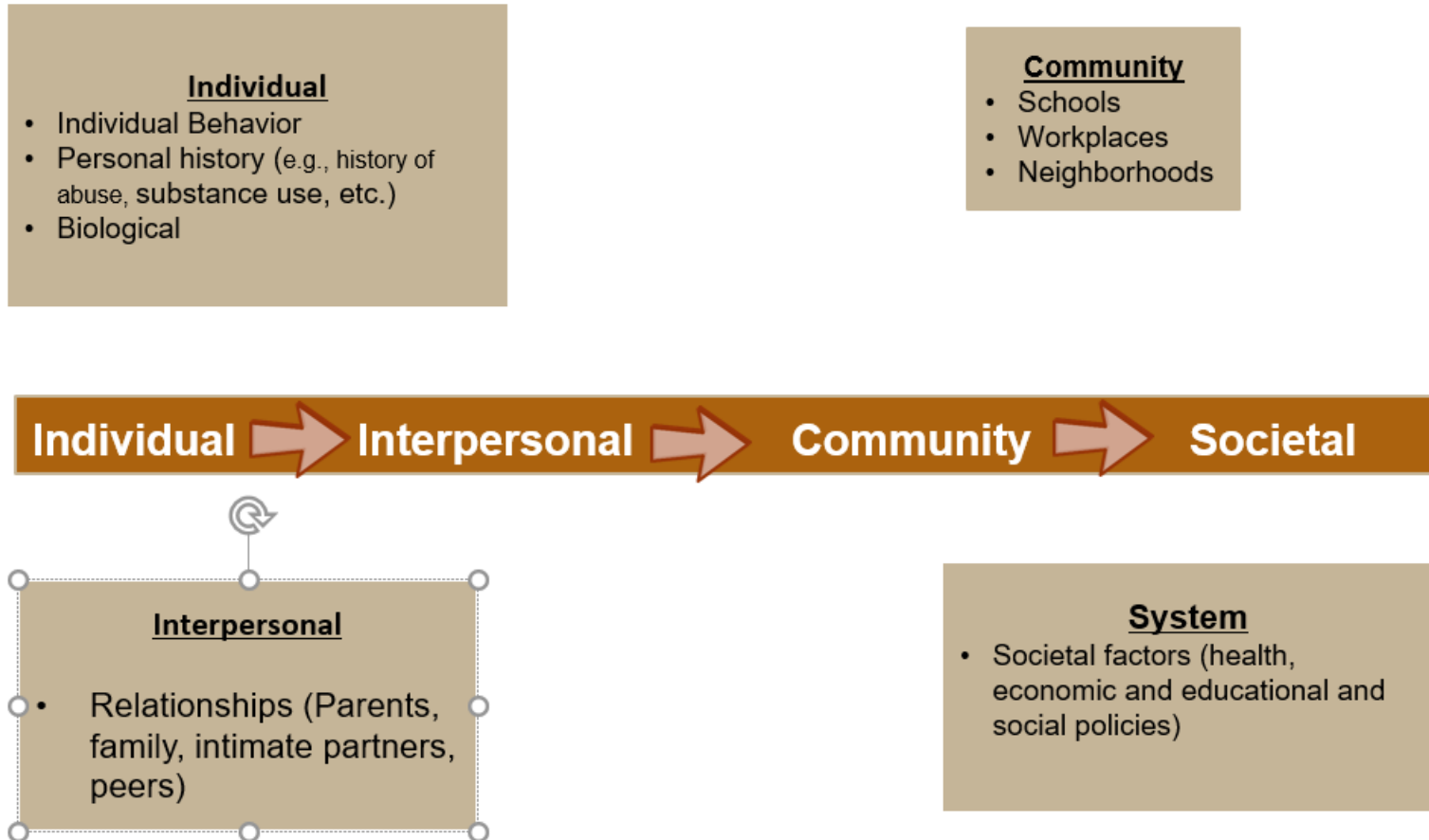
## Cultural Competence Within Social Service Organizations

According to this model, “cultural competence is an ongoing, contextual, dynamic, experiential and a developmental process that impacts one's ability to understand, communicate with, serve, and meet the needs of individuals who look, think, and/or behave differently from oneself.”



# The Social Ecological Model: A Framework for Prevention

## Where We Live, Learn, Work and Play



The Social Ecological Model: A Framework for Prevention.

# The Ecological Perspective

## Ecological Primary Concepts

- Social Environment
- Person in Environment
- Transactions
- Energy
- Input
- Output
- Interface
- Adaptation
- Coping
- Interdependence

### Dimensions to assess Family Problems

- Family communications
- Family Structure
- Categories of Family Problems

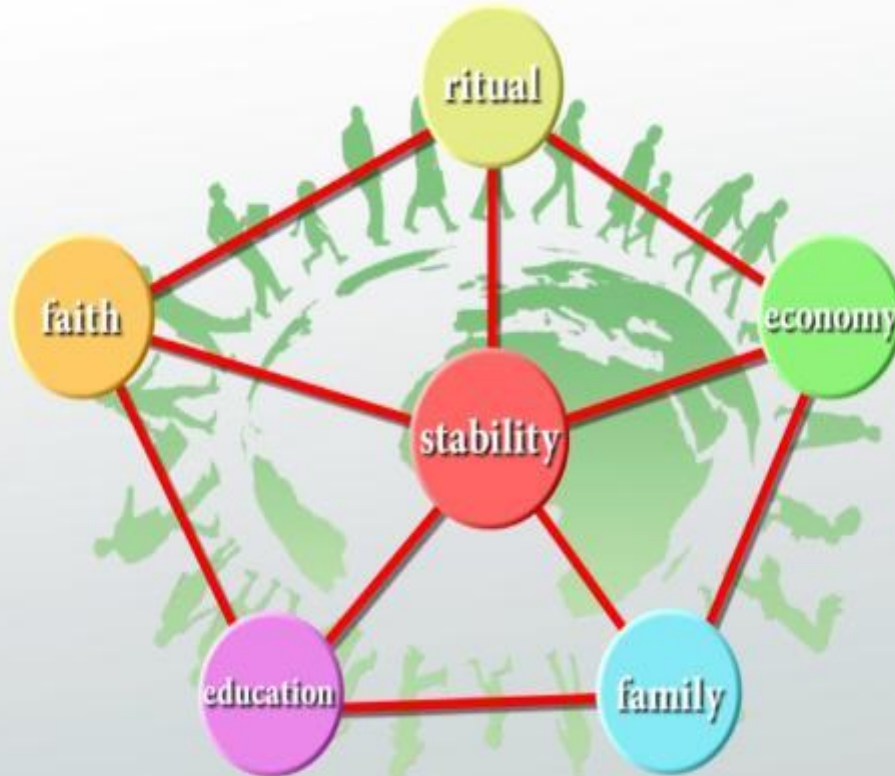
# Social Determinants

**Social determinants** are social factors and the physical conditions in the environment in which people are born, live, learn, play, work and age.

Reference: World Health Organization (WHO). Social Determinants of Health. [online}. 2011.  
[http://www.who.int/social\\_determinants/en/](http://www.who.int/social_determinants/en/)

# Developmental/Structural Model

## SOCIAL STRUCTURE AND SOCIAL FUNCTIONS



Lappin, J. and Covelman, D. W., 1985



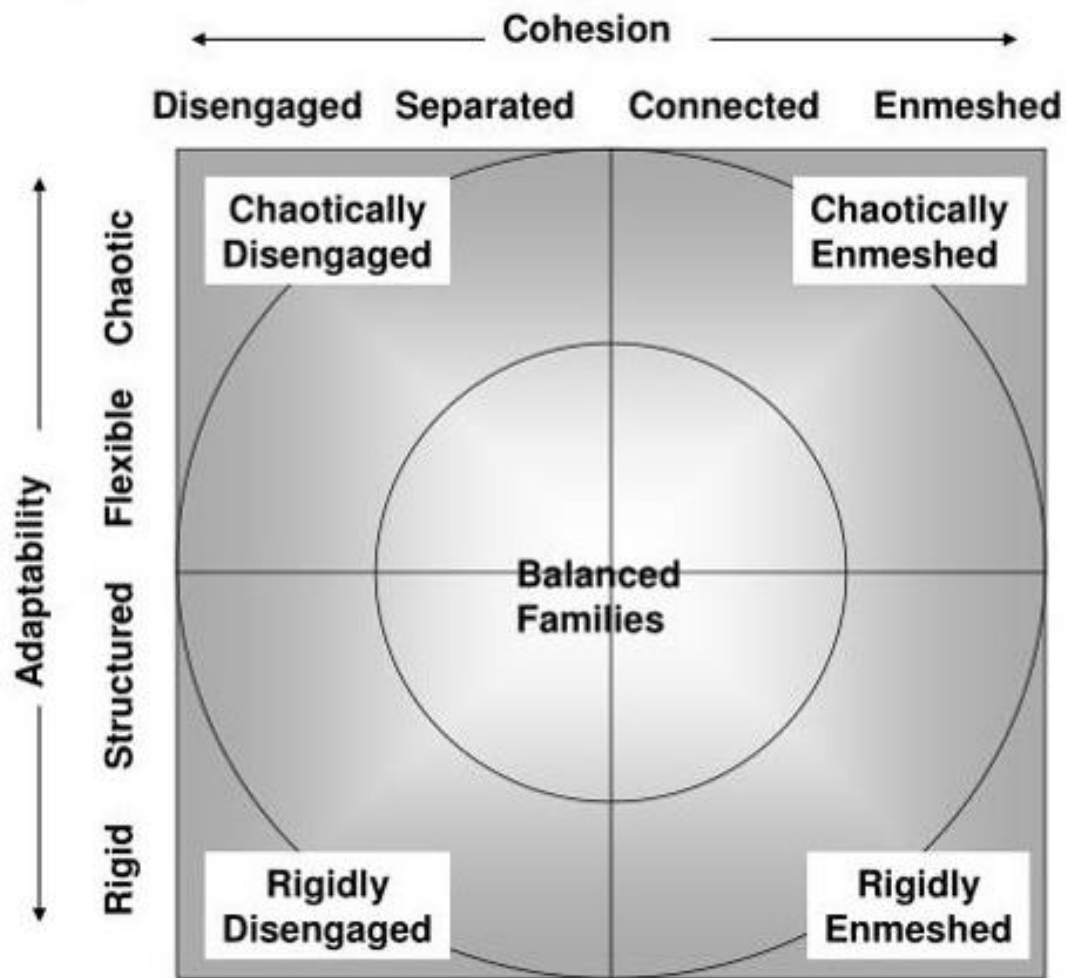
# Circumplex Model

## Circumplex Model of Marital and Family Systems

- Model to describe overall family function according to two features:
  - Cohesion
    - Emotional bonding of the family members
    - Independence vs. Dependence
  - Flexibility
    - Amount of change in leadership, role relationships, and relations by rules
    - How family relationships manage change

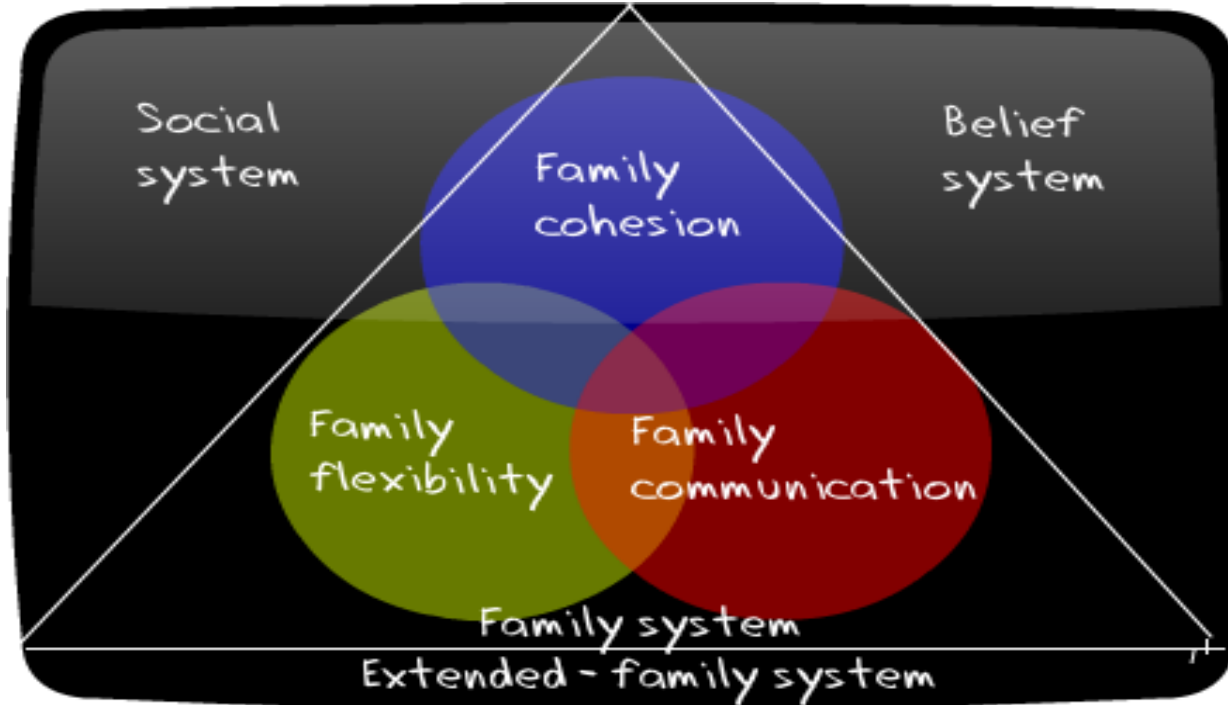
Olson, D. H., 1989

# Olson's Circumplex Model of Family Systems: FACES IV



<http://www.facesiv.com/home.html>

# Family Systems Model



Goldenberg, I., & Goldenberg, H., 1991  
Bowen, Murray (1950's)

## The Generalist Intervention Model

### GIM – 7 STEPS



1. Engagement-initiate the change process with those addressing the problem.
2. Assessment- investigate and determine variables affecting the problem with a focus on strengths and formulate a plan.
3. Planning -review potentials alternatives and determine what course of action to take.
4. Implementation-the actual doing of the plan and monitoring of its progress.
5. Evaluation - determination of the effectiveness of the plan that was implemented.
6. Termination - the ending of the professional client system relationship.
7. Follow-Up - the re-examination of the client system after the intervention to monitor its effects to determine potential reassessment for further intervention.

# Erik Erikson Stages of Development

Stages	Crisis	Favorable Outcome	Unfavorable Outcome
<b>Childhood</b>			
<b>1<sup>st</sup> year of life</b>	Trust vs. Mistrust	Faith in the environment and future events	Suspicion, fear of future events
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> year</b>	Autonomy vs. Doubt	A sense of self-control and adequacy	Feelings of shame and self-doubt
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> years</b>	Initiative vs. Guilt	Ability to be a “self-starter,” to initiate one’s own activities	A sense of guilt and inadequacy to be on one’s own
<b>6<sup>th</sup> year to puberty</b>	Industry vs. Inferiority	Ability to learn how things work, to understand and organize	A sense of inferiority at understanding and organizing
<b>Transition Years</b>			
<b>Adolescence</b>	Identity vs. Confusion	Seeing oneself as a unique and integrated person	Confusion over who and what one really is
<b>Adulthood</b>			
<b>Early adulthood</b>	Intimacy vs. Isolation	Ability to make commitments to others, to love	Inability to form affectionate relationship
<b>Middle age</b>	Generativity vs. Self-Adsorption	Concern for family and society in general	Concern only for self – one’s own well-being and prosperity
<b>Aging years</b>	Integrity vs. Despair	A sense of integrity and fulfillment; willingness to face death	Dissatisfaction with life; despair over prospect of death

**Questions and Comments**

**Thank You**

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