

Aspects Of Social Identity, Self Concept, Self Esteem, Self Functioning And Gender Aspects (Part 5)

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The self concept is far from static. It changes as a result of the continuous process of self-observation that we all indulge in. It is affected by experience, especially of success and failure and the feelings of competence or incompetence derived. However, most changes occur in the course of childhood, for it is then that the foundations of the concept are laid and it is then that the individual is most vulnerable to other's evaluations. The way in which children conceive the self varies to some extent according to age and depends on the stage of cognitive growth achieved. As a result it is possible to describe the progression of self-concepts during childhood in terms of a number of developmental dimensions as below:

	From	To	Description of change
1	Simple	Differentiated	Younger children form global concepts, older children make finer distinctions and allow for circumstances.
2	Inconsistent	Consistent	Younger children are more likely to change their self-evaluation, older children appreciate the stability of the self concept.
3	Concrete	Abstract	Younger children focus on external, visible, physical aspects; older children focus on internal, invisible, psychological aspects.
4	Absolute	Comparative	Younger children focus on self without reference to others; older children describe themselves in comparison with others.
5	Self-as-public	Self-as-private	Younger children do not distinguish between private feelings and public behavior; older children consider private self as 'true self'.

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