

Applied Project

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Tue, Thu 4pm class

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I spend anywhere from 40–70 hours a week at a residential treatment facility as a on site councilor for young boys ages 10–13. I am currently applying so that my fiancé and me can become an on site couple for these youth that I work with daily. I get to see the effect that going through cognitive therapy and family therapy has on boys that have been sent to our treatment program. Having singed up for the Human Growth and Development class I was trying to gain more knowledge and add a backbone to what I can do for these boys.

I have picked one of my boys to study and try to apply what I have learned about the cognitive theorist, and their different ways of trying to come to the same conclusion about how people can change according to their surroundings and how they have been raised.

For all privacy laws such as HIPPA, I will refer to the boy I have chosen to study as John. Now John an eleven year old, comes from a divided family. Divided in the sense that his mother is from Brazil and his father is from Utah. His mother wants him to be raised like a Brazilian child so that he can know his history and background culture so that he can better know who he is. The father on the other hand is trying to raise his son that he can be successful and go to college and be independent. Both have very admirable desires but because of poor communication they have torn this little boy in two.

At our facility John wakes up in the mornings he come straight up to me and starts asking questions “hey what do I need to be doing right now?” , “oh and my mom is going to send me some Brazilian candy can you call her right now?”, “is it okay if I change into my PE clothes cause I

don't feel like getting dressed in my school uniform today."... Wow I think to myself as I am overloaded with questions that I barley have two seconds to think about let alone answer before he has given me another one.

John has been at our facility for 3 months now and has learned that we have a very strict routine to follow and that it never changes unless we tell them other wise. So he knows that he needs to get dressed but thinks that he must be the exception. He yells when he doesn't get his way (because he is used to two different people codling him at all times). I see him be very hyper and even when I ask him to control him self he finds this very hard. He will not eat at mealtime so that he can fill up on snack at bedtime. And he will not do a very good job on his chore because he is above doing chores, cause mother was always letting him play and not teaching him about work.

At first impression when I look at Erikson's model something in the Industry vs. Inferiority has gone wrong and we can help change this behavior because his age is between 7-13. He has not grown in the sense that teachers and parents have become in a way slaves to him. He has not developed that sense of industry for himself to be able to do things for himself. His mother has just given him everything, with a Brazilian twist so that he can love being from Brazilian descent. His father has given him the answers to homework so that he can get good grades. Now he expects us to do this for him. Its very hard when parents implant idleness in young children for so many years and try to reverse the effect once they have reached this age. He has need of learning the reward to hard work and that only through that can we have things that we might want.

Then I started thinking, that is just the problem right there in a nutshell. Not Industry vs. Inferiority, rather Autonomy vs. Shame & Doubt this is a little bit earlier (2-4) and you see the main question posed at this stage... "Can I do things myself or must I always rely on others?". John has this sense of asking what others can do for him because they have just been thrown at him ever since this stage if not earlier.

I can see how this will effect him in the future as a college student he will suffer because no one will do his work fo0r him and will finances and life in general, you are your own keeper! John must find the importance of working hard for his self or it will effect the other stages of Erikson's theory that are soon on the horizon. So now the ball is in my court to help him find this solution and give him opportunities to see and learn this. Wow what a daunting task.