Child Development: Areas for Advocacy

Based on Erikson's Psychosocial Stages

Stage 1:

Birth to 18

Months -

Basic Trust v.

Mistrust

Goal: To establish trust by having needs met consistently by nurturing parent or caregiver.

Stage 2:

18 Months to

3 Years -

Autonomy v.

Shame and

Guilt

Goal: To develop independence, self-control, and a sense of adequacy.

Stage 3:

3 Years to

6 Years -

Initiative v.

Self-Doubt

Goal: To learn to be "self starter" and initiate one's own activities.

Stage 4:

Elementary

School to

Puberty -

Industry v.

Inferiority

Goal: To develop the ability to learn how things work, to understand and to organize.

Stage 5:

Puberty to

Maturity -

Identity v.

Role

Confusion

Goal: To integrate skills, experiences, and social roles into a personal identity.

Areas for Advocacy:

Reasonable efforts to prevent removal, frequency of visitation, frequency of court hearings, placement changes

Areas for Advocacy:

Assessments of parentchild interactions, provision of parenting education or other supports

Areas for Advocacy:

Placement stability, frequency of visitation, sibling connectedness, provision of parenting education or other supports

Areas for Advocacy:

Educational stability, connectedness with peers, extracurricular activities, opportunities for mentoring

Areas for Advocacy:

Placement stability, connectedness with peers, extracurricular activities, opportunities for mentoring, articulated wishes

