

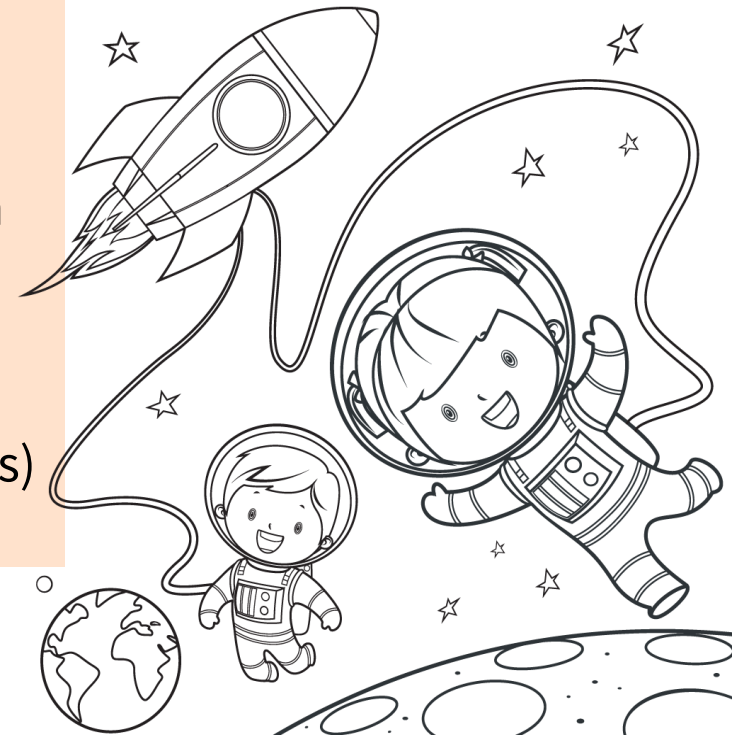


Observing a Child's Development: Analyzing Her Stage Based on Theories by Freud, Erikson, and Piaget

Assignment 3 by Nishigandha Joshi

Child Profile :

- **Age-** 4 years 11 months
- **Gender-** Female
- **Relationship-** Niece
- **Siblings-** None (single child)
- Attends pre-school (Sr.Kg)
- Lives with parents and grandparents
- **Physical Abilities-** Runs, jumps, climbs confidently
- **Cognitive Skills-** Speaks fluently in full sentences (in English and her mother tongue Marathi), asks many questions, loves pretend play
- **Social Behavior-** Friendly, curious, loves playing with friends & cousins, takes time to open up to strangers but very comfortable with those she knows well
- **Interests-** Enjoys drawing, playing doctor-doctor and dressing up (shopping for her clothes, hair accessories)



Observation of My Niece:

Freud's Phallic Stage (Gender Awareness & Parental Attachment)

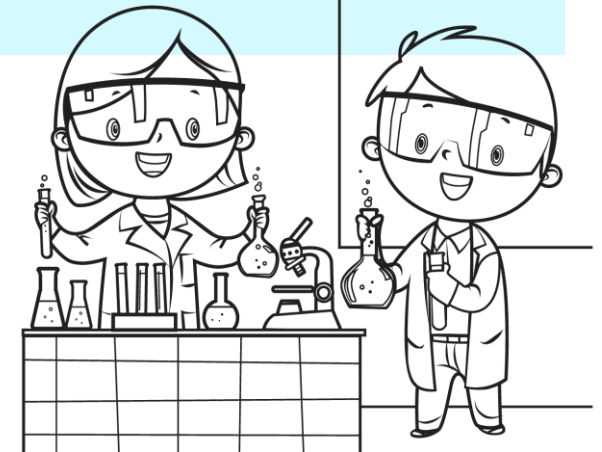
- What I saw:** My niece asks about gender differences (why boys and girls are different) She showed preference for one parent over the other (like wanting to be with mom more often)
- Example:** My niece knows that my husband doesn't have long hair because he's a boy and I do because I'm a girl. She also enjoys spending time with her mom more, which is typical for this stage.

Erikson's Initiative vs. Guilt (Leading & Learning)

- What I saw:** My niece doesn't like taking a lead in play (she's more of a follower in pretend play) , she shows excitement to try new things (karate) She gets very upset when told 'no' or asked to apologize
- Example:** In games such as doctor-doctor, she's happy being the nurse.

Piaget's Preoperational Stage (Imaginative Play & Egocentrism)

- What I saw:** She likes engaging in pretend play (pretending to cook, act like a teacher) She has trouble understanding that things don't change just because they look different (pouring water into a different-sized glass)
- Example:** She loves pretending to cook and serve food to her stuffed animals. When I changed the shape of her cookie, she thought it was a different flavor, showing she's still learning about conservation.



Analysis of Her Stage:

•Freud's Stage:

Based on my observations, my niece seems to be in **Freud's phallic stage**. She is very interested in gender differences and has a clear preference for spending time with her mom.

•Erikson's Stage:

My niece is in **Erikson's initiative vs. guilt stage**. She's still navigating that **initiative vs. guilt** balance wanting to contribute but fearing making mistakes or overstepping.

•Piaget's Stage:

My niece is in Piaget's **preoperational stage**. She enjoys pretend play and shows signs of egocentrism, like thinking the shape of her cookie changes its flavor.



In conclusion...

Observing her reminded me that every small choice a child makes is a step toward understanding themselves and the world around them.

