

TABLE 4.2

Comparison of Moral Development Theories

THEORIST	EMPHASIS	INFANCY TO CHILDHOOD	CHILDHOOD TO ADOLESCENCE	LATE ADOLESCENCE TO ADULTHOOD
Piaget	Cognitive	Moral realism	Morality of cooperation	
Kohlberg	Cognitive	Preconventional level	Conventional level	Postconventional level
Eisenberg	Prosocial reasoning	Hedonistic or self-focused orientation Needs orientation	Approval/interpersonal orientation Self-reflective empathetic orientation	Internalized orientation
Selman	Perspective taking	Egocentric viewpoint Social-informational role taking	Self-reflective role taking Mutual role taking	Social and conventional system role taking
Hoffman	Empathy	Global empathy Egocentric empathy	Empathy for another's feelings	
Developmental trends across theories		Focus on the self, with little consideration for others (egocentrism)	Beginning to consider others through the perspective of external sources such as parents, society, and stereotypical views of others	Development of personal convictions and concern for society as a whole