

## HOW SELF-CONCEPT DEVELOPS

*by:*

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How does self-concept develop? The young child is relatively neutral as to the kind of self-concept that develops but as he perceives the world around him, he starts to develop his self-concept. The way a baby is treated gives him a feeling about his worth.

Some of the earliest messages he receives about himself come from being cuddled, given attention, rocked to sleep, or vice versa. As he grows older his body, the recognition of his own voice, his viewing himself in a mirror are early beginnings of his awareness of personal properties and characteristics - of a concept of himself.

Later, he learns to use language, and the kinds of messages he gets about whom he is increasing. He may learn that word patterns are attributed to him as a person, gradually he develops a picture of himself which he strives to maintain.

Self-image is the end product of introspection. For his self-worth, not only are all external clues taken inside for careful examination, but internal needs, desires, and goals are considered as well. A child may brood about his failures, his shortcomings, his "sins", and his unfilled desires; or, conversely, he may daydream about his long-term hopes and expectations. One young person may look within and bitterly think, "I'm awful," while another happily announces to himself, "I'm great."

At the core of all these behaviors is the development of self-deference. While self-concept is about "who I am," self-deference is more about "how I take care of myself."

A confident, children to be able to speak up, if they think something is not fair, if they are being ignored.

The keyword is respect. As their self-concepts grow their self-deference follows, children learn that what is fair for them also has to be fair for those around them. This is when a child learns that he is not alone as he faces challenges. He sees that he is actually one of much different fish that work together to create a harmoniously flowing sea of friends.

*References:*

<https://www.scholastic.com/teachers/articles/teaching-content/ages-stages-how-children-develop-self-concept/>