



# Narcissist Personality Approach in the Kindergarten Classroom under the Observation of Piaget and Freud Theory

**Thani TA\***

Department of Psychological Science, Qatar University, Qatar

**\*Corresponding author:** Tamader Al-Thani, Psychological Science Department, College of Education, Qatar University, Doha, Qatar, Tel: +974.4403-5211; Email: tamaderalthani@qu.edu.qa

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## Abstract

Narcissism, pathological self-absorption, is identified as a mental disorder by the British physician Havelock Ellis in 1898. Narcissism is self-image, confidence and take others for granted or to exploit them. The disorder is named for the mythological figure Narcissus, who fell in love with his own reflection. According to Sigmund Freud, narcissism is a normal stage in child development, but it is a disorder when it occurs after puberty (Britannica). In Pre-schools, we are engaging with lots of children, some of them do not have stable families. These children may have challenges in their lives, one of the teachers' roles is to understand these children and help them behave appropriately and communicate with other children. One of the most difficult personalities is the narcissist child. In this paper will I attempt to look through the lenses of Freud and Piaget in analyzing the theory of narcissism.

**Keywords:** Narcissist; Egocentric; Maturation; Personality Disorder

## Freud Egocentric Theory

The ego starts to develop in the infancy period during the oral stage of the psychosexual development. During this time, the child is highly egocentric and believes that he or she is the center of the world probably because; of the fact that almost all of their needs and desires are being fulfilled by their mother. As the child grows up, things change. He starts to realize that things cannot always go the way they want and that not everything is for them or about them. Therefore, their act in a self-centeredness starts to decline [1].

Freud assumes that both normal self-esteem and self-aggrandizement are narcissistic phenomena, the difference being merely one of quantity. The difference between self-esteem and self-inflation is not quantitative but qualitative.

True self-esteem rests on qualities, which a person actually possesses, while self-inflation implies presenting to the self and to others qualities or achievements for which there is no adequate foundation. If the other conditions are present narcissistic trends may arise if self-esteem and other qualities pertaining to the individual's spontaneous self are smothered, self-esteem and self-inflation are mutually exclusive [2].

## Piaget Egocentric Theory

Piaget phenomenon of children's egocentrism, which the child sees the world from his point of view. The child up to age seven does not realize the peculiarities of his thinking cannot stand on the point of view of another. Egocentrism is during the preoperational stage, in Piaget developmental

stage the age of the children is two to seven years old.

The roots of the concept of egocentrism can be traced back to Freud's influence on Piaget. In Piaget theory realism, animism and artificialism gradually disappear as the child becomes aware of her own subjectivity. Piaget introduced the concept of egocentrism in his early writings in the 1920s to describe general characteristics of the preschool child [3]. The egocentric child believes that other people see, hear, and feel exactly the same as they do. This theory of Jean Piaget, calls preoperational stage this is the phenomena that Children's' thoughts and communications are typically egocentric. For example if he sees his mother crying, a young child gives her his favorite stuffed animal to comfort her, his mother [4].

Piaget preoperational stage, believes that the child is absorbed in its own private world and does not communicate with others. According to Piaget, four interrelated factors allow movement from stage to stage. These factors include maturation, experience, social interaction and equilibration [5].

- Parenting style
- Environment
- Narcissistic personality disorder (NPD)

### Parenting Style

Empirical examinations of narcissism and childhood experiences have examined a range of parenting behaviors including maltreatment, care, overprotection and overvaluation, and leniency [6]. An increase in narcissism has been reported by experts over the years. Narcissists bring a lot of negative consequences to themselves and to the people around them. This study investigates that perceived parenting leads to the development of inflated and to unstable self-concept [7]. Childhood narcissism can occur when a parent views their child as being better and or more entitled than other children [8].

### Environment

Remembered childhood environments of being excessively pampered are associated with grandiose and vulnerable narcissistic traits, characterized by the young person expressing unrealistic self-views, entitlement beliefs and impaired autonomy [6]. When given a leadership role in the task, children with higher narcissism levels perceived themselves as better leaders, but their actual leadership functioning did not differ significantly from that of other leaders. Specification-curve analyses corroborated these findings. Thus, children with relatively high narcissism levels tend to emerge as leaders, even though they may not excel as

leaders [9].

Play in Piaget theory is integral to the development of intelligence in children. Maturation helps the child involve in his environment and play helps the child develop further cognitive and language development [10]. According to Piaget, four interrelated factors allow movement from stage to stage. These factors include maturation, experience, social interaction, and equilibration. Experience is when the child thinks and interacts with actual or concrete objects in the outdoor environment. Social interaction involves the child socializing with others, especially children. The last factor of stage movement is equilibration, this occurs when the child carries maturation, experience, and social interaction in order to build mental schema.

Equilibration is deliberated the tendency for children to seek cognitive coherence and stability. They are enthused in this drive for equilibration by disequilibrium or a perceived discrepancy between an existing scheme and somewhat new. Maturation is the physical and psychological growth that occurs in the child at a specific stage. Maturation can be measured physically, intellectually, and emotionally, and is usually not quantifiable [11].

### Narcissistic personality disorder (NPD)

**What are the Signs of a Narcissistic Child?:** In children, the core features of narcissistic personality disorder may evident in the following ways:

- Believing they are better than other kids and difficulty maintaining friendships
- Be center of attention and withdrawal from who do not give attention or admiration
- Not expressing gratitude to parents or others for being kind
- Excluding other children from their playgroup based on superficial characteristics such as the other child being poor, having a lower social status, or if other children are unable to perform the same tasks with what they feel is an appropriate skill level
- Not taking responsibility for their actions and the consequences  
And throwing temper tantrums when criticized
- Resentment at being told what to do and refusal to recognize the authority of others
- Gaze aversion (not looking into the eyes of someone speaking to them)
- Pathologic play Separation anxiety and having high and unreasonable expectations of others
- Magnified feelings of envy: The child is offended if others are seen as better than him in any way
- antisocial behavior: The child will get into fights or steal

toys from other children [12].

Narcissists tend to self-enhance their agentic characteristics more than their communal characteristics. According to the agency model of narcissism narcissists, view themselves as high on agentic traits but low on communal traits. Overall, results supported the agency model of narcissism and extended this model to suggest that narcissists rate themselves more highly not only on positive-agentic traits but also on negative-communal traits [13].

These steps will help you to handle a narcissist:

- Educate yourself about the disorder. It help to understand the narcissist's strengths and weaknesses and learn how to handle them better. Knowing who they are will help to accept the situation and have realistic expectations.
- Create clear boundaries. It may upset or disappoint the narcissist; it is hard to control that person's emotions.
- Speak up for yourself. When you need something, be clear and concise.
- Watch your wording. Narcissists do not take constructive criticism, make comments in a positive ways.
- Stay calm and do not react when they want to fight, engage aggressively or gaslight you.
- Create a support system. Living with a narcissist can lead to feelings of insecurity, confusion, and self-doubt.
- A counselor therapy will not cure the narcissist, counselor can display methods to approach problem-solving with the narcissist.

What Not to Do With a Narcissist

- Certain things may trigger problems with a narcissist, so it is best to avoid them.
- Do not argue or confront them. Manly finds its best not to confront a narcissist directly. Constantly go around them, it can be better to manage their need to make them feel in charge.
- Do not direct them. Narcissists like to have control and often fear losing it.
- They do not understand your point of view. Narcissists do not like to admit when they are wrong or that they are unlovable, so trying to make them see things your way could backfire.
- Meaningful communication is not expected. Narcissists have very little empathy. So honest, heartfelt communication often does not get through in the contrary it can create an angry outburst or shutdown response.
- Do not go over past issues such as previous behavior issues dating back years, or for example they are example of their father. Insist in staying in the present for a requests or showing hurt feelings.
- Narcissistic personality disorders often do not change, even if you manage your relationship better, it probably

will not ever be a healthy relationship [14].

## Conclusion

A child narcissist is also having their own challenges and finds difficulty dealing with people close to them; family and school peers who the child has to work with. Understanding the narcissist will help the narcissist first and relief themselves from some of the stresses that they encounter, and make them less threaten from their close family or co-peers in the classroom. Second, it helps people around them understand them and helps prevents them being victims of their own gas lighting, and his wearied reaction to them because they have very little if not any empathy or understanding the others point of view. Thirdly knowing how to deal with them makes both the narcissist and their counterpart feel relief and content. It is worth noting that of vast importance that the nonracist traits are revealed and spotted at an early age especially childhood. Moreover to help relieve the child firstly and his family and peers alike from the narcissist attitude and behavior one must understand there is a grey area because not all children who have these traits are narcissists and are merely a product of their social encounters with their families. If shown these signs at an early age the parents and the teachers play a massive role in curbing the child away from narcissism.

To help narcissist, parents have to be aware when raising their children, to put them in the real live. Not in a fantasy world that their child is the best of all the children around. The child should communicate with other children, whether it is in a day care, nursery and school and interact with other children. Home schooling and being alone with their parents most of the time and posting the child as the one and only. This often creates a selfish nonracist child. Teachers need to involve children in cooperative play in learning centers where the narcissist child can see their self with other children and see that all children have advantages and disadvantages in their characters regardless their statues. Encourage the narcissist to play sports such as soccer, basketball, swimming, and playground games such as sand or slide all these games, this helps open their eyes to the different characters and characteristics of others. Moreover this will help them learn how to communicate and understand others. Normal people and narcissists alike should realize that with every step they take, or every mile they pedal or every lap they swim around the pool, they are enhancing their cognitive fitness. Recent studies suggest that the activities do improve their body also benefit their brain.

Physical activity shows direct significant benefits the health most significantly the heart, the body and the mind. It also enhances judgment, thinking, and learning skills [15-23]. Teachers have to incorporate workshops about the

reasons of the creation of a nonracist child and how it is hurting the child before they hurt the closest people to them and causing general discontent from the people surrounding them. Brain development is a complicated process, and environmental stimuli during this developmental stage may modify the brain's functional growth and determine the integrity of the brain throughout life. Although the relation between physical education and cognitive development is not very clear, some studies have shown that exercise and aerobics can improve the function of the brain, increase the size of critical brain structures and improve cognition in children and older adults [16].

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