

# ECOLOGICAL SYSTEMS THEORY

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# WHAT IS IT?

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- Created by Urie Bronfenbrenner in 1979, it is his well-known contribution to psychology and childhood development
- The main emphasize is how different environments shape a child's development

# THE 5 CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTS

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- Microsystem: Immediate surroundings to child
- Mesosystem: The connections between microsystems
- Exosystem: The indirect environment influences
- Macrosystem: The culture and social contexts within the child's life
- Chronosystem: The time and life changes occurring in or around the child's life

# CONNECTION TO LEARNING

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- Teachers are in the child's microsystem, so having a caring and engaging teacher will help the student more than if having a cold and distant teacher
  - A child's peer group can affect their learning as well
- Depending on where the child lives, funding and resources for schools can impact the child if needs are not being met
  - This can be seen with general economic conditions along with government policies on schooling as well (Some cultures do not put emphasis on school like other cultures)

# DIVERSITY CONSIDERATIONS

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- This theory does an excellent way of applying diversity into its environments
- As stated before, the entire theory discusses different environments a child may or may not be in
  - Includes economic, resources, peer/student relationships, etc.
- If a child does not have the resources or relationships that will help them grow, they will not reach their full potential

# SEND OFF

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In order to develop normally, a child requires progressively more complex joint activity with one or more adults who have an irrational emotional relationship with the child. Somebody's got to be crazy about that kid. That's number one. First, last and always.

— Urie Bronfenbrenner —

AZ QUOTES