

Ego States



Child Ego State

If our child consciousness or ego state is reacting, for example, we may demand that our needs get met right now by those around us. We may feel small and weak or guilty. We may be unwilling to take responsibility for the situation in which we find ourselves and become withdrawn, detached, distant, or overly insistent about our needs.



Adolescent Ego State

If the part of us that contains our adolescent energy reacts, we may sound sarcastic and feel rebellious. From this level of consciousness, we frequently act in ways that do not support our larger life vision. We may refuse to be told what to do. Sometimes we may clearly say we won't fulfill a request, or we may just passively avoid doing it. We may be unwilling to express how we truly feel about a situation and think others have control over our life.



Critical Parent Ego State

We sometimes approach life from our inner parent. This part of us can sound as though we know what is best for others, more than they know for themselves. From this ego place, we can be inflexible, hypercritical, disapproving, righteous, and judgmental with ourselves and with others. When functioning from our inner parent we also can try to defend, shield, and rescue those around us, thus becoming the overly responsible hero parent.



Adult Ego State

From our adult state, we are able to consider our options and respond effectively to a situation. We are connected to our own sources of wisdom -- our feelings, inner guidance, and intuition. We are able to take healthy responsibility, rather than too much or too little. Instead of acting out of unconscious emotional states from the past, we make choices about situations from the present moment.