



# Views on Children

## 01. 500 - 1500 AD

Children after infancy were considered as miniature adults. This view of regarding children is known as Preformationism. Children at the age of seven or eight years were expected to behave like adults. It is believed that, during the Medieval times, European people had no concept of childhood as a separate stage of human life.

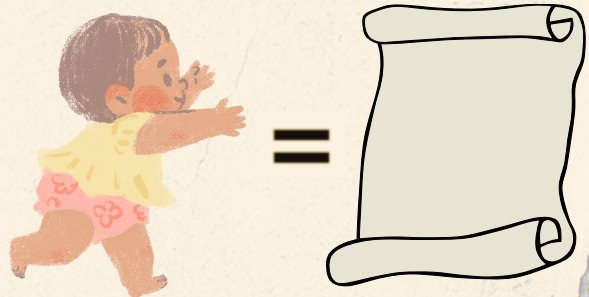


## 02. 16th Century

Childhood was seen as a different stage of life but regarded as a 'original sin'. According to Puritan (Christian) doctrine, the child's soul was tainted by original sin and children were required to be civilized.

## 03. 17th Century

British philosopher John Locke proposed philosophy of 'tabula rasa'. He considered children as 'blank slate' at birth and the external experience from the surroundings shaped their personality characteristics.



## 04. 18th Century

Jean Jacques Rousseau a French philosopher, said that children were not blank slates to be written by the adults. According to him, children were active and 'noble savage', meaning they were born with the sense of right and wrong, and had unique ways of thinking and feeling.



## 05. Indian View

In India, child is considered as 'God'. In both Ramayana and Mahabharata, the great epics of ancient India, young children have been portrayed as very loving children. From ancient period Indians loved their children dearly. It was believed that children that children are gifts from God.

