## Levels of Prosocial Behavior

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>No prosocial behavior evident. The individual actively avoids situations that might require prosocial actions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Indirect prosocial behavior. The individual exhibits kindness or generosity indirectly, but not directly. For example, giving away a toy or offering help without asking for payment.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Direct prosocial behavior. The individual engages in direct acts of kindness or generosity, such as sharing food, helping others, or volunteering.</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Advanced prosocial behavior. The individual demonstrates a deep understanding of social norms and actively seeks out opportunities to help others.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Moral Judgment

Moral judgment (or moral reasoning) is the process by which individuals form moral principles and apply them to specific situations. It involves understanding the moral implications of actions and deciding which actions are right or wrong. Moral judgment is crucial for developing a sense of ethics and responsibility.

### Developmental Considerations

- **Infancy (0-2 years)**: Toddlers begin to develop empathy and a basic understanding of right and wrong. They may respond to the expressions of others and show some signs of prosocial behavior, such as sharing toys.
- **Early Childhood (3-5 years)**: Children start to understand the perspectives of others and the consequences of their actions. They are more likely to engage in prosocial behavior, such as sharing and helping others.
- **Middle Childhood (6-12 years)**: Children develop a more advanced understanding of moral reasoning. They are able to consider the intentions and outcomes of actions when making moral judgments.
- **Adolescence (13-18 years)**: Adolescents engage in more complex moral reasoning, considering the implications of actions in a wider social context. They may struggle with moral dilemmas and develop a more nuanced understanding of moral principles.

### Factors Influencing Prosocial Behavior

- **Genetic Factors**: Some research suggests that genetic factors may influence the development of prosocial behavior.
- **Social Environments**: The social environment, including family, peers, and community, plays a significant role in shaping prosocial behavior.
- **Culture**: Cultural values and norms can influence what behaviors are considered prosocial.

### Typical Examples of Prosocial Behavior

- Sharing a toy or food with a friend.
- Helping a person in need, such as giving a stool to reach a high shelf.
- Offering one's seat to an older person on public transportation.
- Assisting a child in a playground when they are feeling sad or lonely.

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Chapter 4

TABLE 4.1

Kohlberg's Levels and Stages of Moral Reasoning