

Bronfenbrenners Ecological Systems Theory

Bronfenbrenners Ecological Systems Theory identifies four different systems in a child's environment, each of which have an effect on a child's development. These systems are:

- **Microsystem** - the immediate surroundings and things which affect the child, such as the family or classroom
- **Mesosystem** - which is two microsystems in interaction
- **Exosystem** - an outside environment which indirectly affects the child, such as a siblings classroom
- **Macrosystem** - the community

The digram above outlines the four system and gives examples of what fits into each.

Importance to Grandparents

Grandparents influence children in all four of their systems. They can be part of their Microsystem and they can [directly influence](#) them, their microsystems form the childs Exosystem because what happens to them [indirectly influences](#) the child and they are part of the community so the child sees what they do and these [symbolicly influences](#) them. How grandparents influence children is the key point to our research so Bronfenbrenners Ecological Systems Theory is very important to our topic.

