

# The Child



This archetype is the beginning point. This archetype establishes your perceptions of life, safety, nurturing and family.

Your inner child will exhibit aspects of the Wounded and Orphaned Child. Because somewhere along the line you did not receive the nurturing necessary for you to have autonomy and individualize from mother (or from a mother surrogate).

Confronting your inner child awakens a new relationship with life. This archetypal pattern brings you into contact with untapped resources connected to creative thought.

The mature personality of the Child archetype is able to self-nurture that part of self that yearns to be lighthearted, carefree and expect the wonders of tomorrow regardless of age. This part of you contributes greatly to your ability to have playfulness in your life while balancing the responsibilities of adulthood.

The balanced child is a delight to be around because the energy that flows from this part of your personality is infectious and brings out the best in others, as well as in yourself.

The Child's many aspects include:

- The Wounded Child
- The Abandoned or Orphaned Child
- The Magical or Innocent Child
- The Nature Child
- The Eternal Child
- The Dependent Child

Each of these variants of the Child archetype is characterized by both shadow and light tendencies. You will find that different situations will elicit the emergence of these tendencies (shadow/light) depending on the traumas that are triggered. The work in this archetype is to... take responsibility for your life, when to have healthy dependency, when to differentiate yourself from or oppose the group and when to embrace communal life.