

According to Freud, this is when both boys and girls become fixated on the penis. Freud argued that girls fixate on their lack of a penis and, in its absence, their clitoris. In a girl's psychosexual development, Freud proposed, she's first attached to her mother until she realizes she doesn't have a penis. This causes her to resent her mother for "castrating" her — a situation Freud referred to as "penis envy." Because of this, she develops an attachment to her father. Later, the girl identifies more strongly with her mother and emulates her behavior out of fear of losing her mother's love. Freud called this a "feminine Oedipus attitude." Freud believed this was a crucial stage in a young girl's development, as it leads her to accept gender roles and understand her own sexuality. Freud proposed that the feminine Oedipus attitude was more emotionally intense than the Oedipus complex, so it was repressed more harshly by the young girl. This, he believed, led to women being less self-confident and more subservient. Carl Jung expanded on this theory by labeling it the "Electra complex." However, this label was rejected by Freud, who said it was an attempt to analogize the Oedipus complex between the sexes.