

PSYCHOSOCIAL DEVELOPMENT IN EARLY CHILDHOOD

McGraw-Hill

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Preschool (2-6 yrs): Initiative vs. Guilt

- Children should be encouraged to *develop* as well as *control* their abilities.
- Develop feelings of competence and independence.
- Extreme parental criticism or punishment can lead to the negative outcome of early childhood: an overly strict superego, which interferes with initiative
- Parents need to *protect* children from shame and doubt.

Self-Understanding

Two aspects of the self emerge in the first 2 years

- I-self: self as the knower and actor, including realization that the self is separate from the surrounding world, remains the same person over time, has a private inner life, and controls its own thoughts and actions
- Me-self: self as the object of knowledge, includes the physical, psychological, and social characteristics that make the self unique
- As preschoolers focus on the me-self they develop a self-concept: the set of attributes, abilities, attitudes, and values that a person believes defines who he or she is.

Self-Concept

- Concrete, by age 3 ½ they include emotions and attitudes
- They do not make statement referring directly to personality traits such as I am shy.

Emotional Development

- They become better able to talk about feelings
- 4-5 years able to correctly judge the cause of many basic emotions, such as happiness or sadness
- Preschoolers who talk about their emotions are better able to judge others' emotions
- Preschoolers will have difficulty with managing emotion, harder for children who are emotionally reactive

Peer Relationships

- Nonsocial Activity: unoccupied, onlooker, solitary play
- Parallel play: child plays near other children with similar material but does not interact with them
- Associative play: child engages in separate activities but exchange toys and comments on one another's behavior
- Cooperative play: children orient towards a common goal

Types of Play

- Functional Play: (1-2 years) Simple repetitive movements...running, rolling toys
- Constructive Play: (3-6 years) Creating or constructing...blocks, puzzles, Legos, drawing
- Make-Believe Play: (3-7 years) Acting out roles...playing house, Dr.
- Games with Rules: (6-11) board games, cards, sports

Developmental Aspects of Play

- Cognitive Development
 - Practice games
 - Symbolic games
 - Games with rules
- Social Development
- Emotional Development

Gender Stereotyping

- Boys: more active assertive, and directly aggressive
- Girls: fearful, dependent, emotionally sensitive, and skilled for understanding self-conscious emotions and at inflicting indirect relational aggression

The Role of Gender in Development

Gender Identity

- A person's sense of being male or female
- Some sense of gender identity develops by age 3
- At about 4 or 5, children realize gender identity is permanent

Gender Roles

- Gender Roles: Culturally acceptable sexual behavior
- Gender roles have changed in the last century
- Androgynous behavior:
 - A blend of stereotypically male and female characteristics
 - More common
 - Androgynous individuals tend to feel more fulfilled and competent
 - Highly creative
- But we still live in a gendered society

Theories of Gender Development

- Biological Explanation: Chromosomal and hormonal input
- Social Learning Theory: Parents are reinforce gender appropriate behaviors.
 - Parent become models for children to imitate
- Cognitive Development Explanation: Building a concept of maleness of femaleness.

Theories of Gender Development

- Gender Schema: Children use cognitive abilities to develop schemas about gender and then shape gender info into existing schemes.
- Psychoanalytic-Identification: Identification with the same sex parent

The Family in Development

- A Changing View of Development
 - Homeless
 - Blended Families
 - Foster Children

Child-Rearing Styles

Combination of parenting behaviors that occur over a wide range of situations, creating an enduring child-rearing climate

- Authoritarian
- Authoritative
- Permissive
- Rejecting-Neglecting



Authoritative Parents

- Most successful approach to child-rearing
- Children of authoritative parents achieve more in school
- Caring warmth and firm discipline
- More influential for White American teens
- May be due to differences in attitudes
 - > Asian Americans taught to fear consequences of a poor education
 - > African Americans more likely to believe in positive outcomes despite a poor education

Authoritarian Parents

- Low in acceptance, involvement, autonomy granting
- High in coercive control, psychological control
- Children are usually anxious, unhappy, low self-esteem, lack self-reliance, tend to react with hostility when frustrated

Permissive Parents

- Warm and accepting but uninvolved
- Engage in little control of their child's behavior
- Allow children to make decision at an age when they are not capable of doing so
- Impulsive, disobedient, rebellious, overly demanding, dependent on adults, and less persistent on tasks

Uninvolved-Rejecting- Neglecting Parents

- Combines low acceptance and involvement with little control and general indifference to autonomy granting
- Parent may be overwhelmed with life stress, leaving them little time and energy for children
- Children show poor emotional self-regulation, school achievement difficulties, and antisocial behaviors

Child Abuse Reporting

- National Center for Youth Law:
www.youthlaw.org
- www.childrensright.org
- www.cornerstones4kids.org

Homework Assignment

Go to National Center for Youth Law:
www.youthlaw.org

In brief, explain...

1. What constitutes child abuse or neglect?
2. Who are mandated reporters?
3. How does reporting work?

Siblings and Development

Siblings: Brothers and sisters

- Siblings play a major role in development
 - Models
 - Smooth relationships with adults
 - Grow closer with adversity

Children of Divorce

- 50% of first marriages
- 62% of remarriages
- 12% live with divorced fathers

Psychological Effects of Divorce

- Stressful
- Creates anxiety and depression
- Financial problems
- Positive effects for women:
 - Independence
 - Ego development: Psychological growth, women develops more complex view of herself & of her relationships with others

What Are Some Of The Psychological Effects of Divorce on Children?

Day Care

- Au pairs and Nannies
- Day-care services vary
- National concern about quality

Day Care Effects

- Majority of U.S. children under 5 receive some type of non-parental day care
- Day-care children are more independent of mothers and more outgoing
- Does not aid nor impede positive relationships with peers
- Day-care children have advanced cognitive and language development
- Seems to be associated with increased behavior problems
