

Socialization: the role of the family and peers

Lecture

Lecture outline

- Attachment
- Parenting styles
- Birth order
- Types of play
- Peer pressure

Attachment

- **Attachment** – positive emotional bond that develops between a child and particular individual:
 - **Freud** – A grew out of mother's ability to satisfy a child's oral needs;
 - **Harlow** – food alone is insufficient to bring about attachment;
 - **John Bowlby** – A is based on infants' need for safety and security. A provides safe base for the development of independence
 - **Mary Ainsworth** – strange situation experiment, caregiver as secure base;

Attachment

- Securely attached children (2/3)
- Avoidant children (20%)
- Ambivalent children (12%)
- Disorganized-Disoriented children

How attachment develops?

- Sensitive to infant's needs;
- Aware of infants' moods;
- Provide appropriate responses;
- Attachment styles are stable from one generation to another;
- When stressed infants tend to prefer mothers;
- Fathers play, mothers feed and nurture.



When attachment develops?

Phase 1. Nonfocused orienting and signaling;

Phase 2. Focus on one or more figure – 3 months

Phase 3. Secure base behavior – 6 months

Margaret Mahler, 1975:

Baby, 6 months: “I love you, and I don’t want to be messing around with anyone else”

Baby, 18-24 months, aware of own vulnerability:

“Hey, wait a minute! I am too little to be away from you for too long: I can’t take care for myself. I need you!”

Fear of stranger and separation anxiety

- 5-6 months till 12-16 months;
- Separation anxiety continues longer and heightened fearfulness may be caused by stress
- How to ease the separation anxiety?
- How strong is the attachment in preschool years, elementary school and adolescence?

Transition to Kindergarten

- Quality of relationship with a secondary caregiver, development of attachment;
- Gradual introduction to the program for both child and parent;
- Emphasizing that Mom or Dad will come back, support during goodbyes;
- Being prepared for regression or shifts in behavior;
- Offering tangible reminders of home – toys, ensure consistent classroom regime

Dimensions of family interaction

- Warmth versus hostility of the home (Maccoby 1980; Pettit et al. 1997);
- **Responsiveness** → IQ, cognitive and language dev;
- **Method of control**: consistency of rules, level of expectations, use of punishment;
- Communication pattern- importance of child's opinion

Parenting Styles

Diana Baumrind (1980):

- ▣ **AUTHORITARIAN PARENTS** - are controlling, punitive, rigid, and cold, and whose word is law
- ▣ **PERMISSIVE PARENTS** - provide lax and inconsistent feedback and require little of their children.
- ▣ **AUTHORITATIVE PARENTS** - firm, setting clear and consistent limits, but try to reason with their children giving explanations for why they should behave in a particular way

Maccoby and Martin, 1983

Level of acceptance
/responsiveness

High

Low

High

**Authoritative,
reciprocal**

Authoritarian

Level of control
or demand

Low

**Indulgent,
Permissive**

Neglecting

Parenting style and Preschool Outcomes

| | |
|---------------|--|
| Authoritative | Cheerful, socially responsible, self-reliant, achievement oriented, cooperative |
| Authoritarian | Moody, unhappy, easily annoyed, unfriendly, aimless, not pleasant to be around |
| Permissive | Impulsive and aggressive, bossy, self-centered, lacked self-control, low in independence and achievement |
| Neglecting | Impulsive, antisocial, less achievement oriented |

What kind of parenting style is it?

- A parent takes a child to a shoe store and the parent selects three pairs of shoes that are acceptable to the parent in price and type. The child is told, “You may decide which you would like. This is what we can afford and I think these are suitable styles and quality.”

What kind of parenting style is it?

- A parent takes a child to a shoe store and says, “What do you like?” The child selects a pair that costs more than the parent can afford or that is not a suitable type of shoe in the parent’s judgment. The parent says, “No, I can’t buy that pair.” The child whines and fusses until the parent gives in.

What kind of parenting style is it?

- A parent takes a child to a shoe store and tells the salesperson, “We’ll try on those.” The child is given no say and ends up with a pair of shoes that s/he hates. The child feels disrespected. (“No one asked me what I wanted.”) The child says nothing out of fear of parental love-withdrawal (parent pouts and gives child silent treatment) or fear of harsh reaction (parent says, “You are just a spoiled brat; you don’t appreciate anything I do for you!” or parent slaps or spanks child for complaining).

First born

- Mothers became more negative, coercive and played less, when second child was born;
- Intense relations with parents through all life;
- Higher expectations from parents;
- Are expected to show self-control and responsibility;
- More dominant, competent, powerful
- More aggressive and more nurturing towards younger siblings

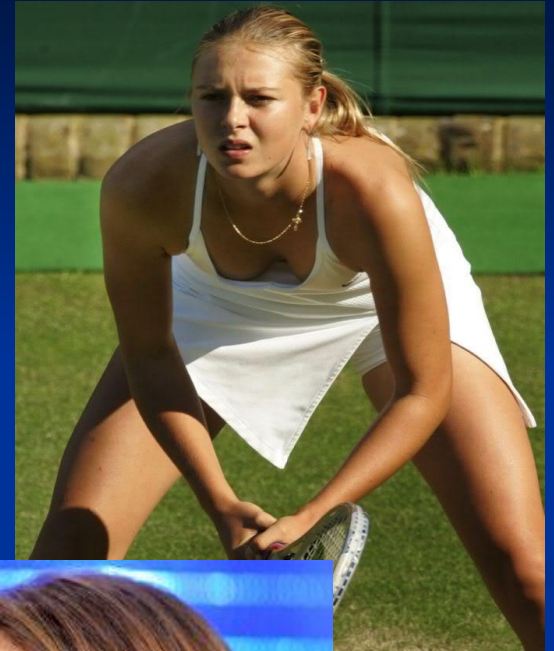
First born

- conservative and self-controlled;
- jealous and anxious;
- typically respectful, conforming, and responsive to authority;
- a high achiever
- dissatisfied with themselves



The Only Child:

- typically less anxious, more mature, self-sufficient and optimistic;
- Achievement oriented, desirable personality;
- internal dependency conflicts or loneliness;
- disadvantage in contact with peers



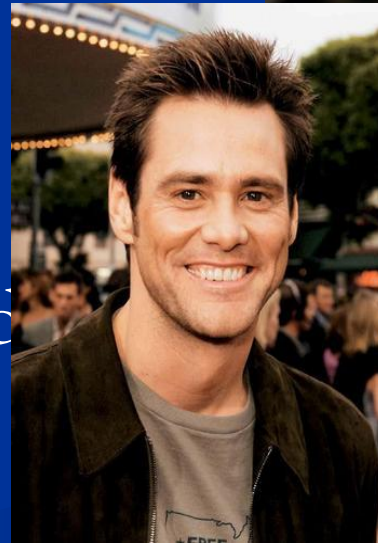
The Middle Child:

- The most vulnerable to maladjustment;
- more excitable, demanding, attention getting, and undependable.
- feel overlooked or excluded in the family
- getting practice with negotiating;



The Youngest Child:

- charming, lighthearted, and playful;
- being the family pet or suffering from teasing from older siblings
- low acceptance of responsibility, but are good at compromising.



Impact of peers



Peer statuses

- Popular children – happy, concern for others, communication skills, self-confident;
- Neglected children
- Rejected children – aggressive or shy
- Controversial children

Training programs: teach popular kids to accept rejected, teach rejected kids to listen to peers, attract their attention etc.

Bullying

- Bullies parents – rejecting, authoritarian, permissive on their kid's aggression;
- Victims' parents – overprotective, anxious;
- Consequences for victims – become depressed, lost interest in school, low self-esteem;



Types of play

- Unoccupied play
- Solitary play
- Onlooker play
- Parallel play
- Associative play
- Cooperative play



Types of play?



Adolescents' thinking

- **adolescent egocentrism** - intense preoccupation with one's own feelings and lack of connection to feelings of others,
- **imaginary audience** - the belief that one is the focus of others' thinking and attention;
- **personal fable** - the belief that no one else can possibly understand one's feelings and experiences because they are unique
- **illusion of invulnerability** - the belief that bad things only happen to other people.

Peer pressure

- A pressure to think and act like friends;
- Conformity peaks in early adolescence when experience separateness from parents;
- High status, well-developed sense of self, authoritative parenting decrease conformity;



Children of divorce

Why there are so many divorce nowadays? How children react to divorce? How kids of different age and gender react to divorce?

- 1 st year – anger, fear, depression, guilt;

Factors that shape child's adjustment:

1. The degree of parental conflict children are exposed too;
2. Quality of parenting after break-up

Age differences

- Preschoolers – more demanding, sad, regressive behavior, nightmare, bedwetting, boys more aggressive, girls neat and good.
- 6-8 – divorce seems to be especially difficult, believe that they are rejected by departed parent, sadness, low self-esteem, loss of initiative, depression, decline in performance

Age differences

- 9-12 – anger, blame, harass and get revenge on the other; problems at school, somatic complains, boys have more conflicts with custodian mother than girls
- Adolescence – responses vary greatly, some experience “Loyalty conflicts”, worry about own future.