Chapter 8: Socioemotional Development in Early Childhood

Emotional and Personality Development

- The Self
  - Initiative Versus Guilt (Erikson)
  - Self-Understanding and Understanding Others
    - The representation of self; the substance and content of self-conceptions
    - Children’s self-descriptions involve body attributes, material possessions, and physical activities
    - Others have emotions and desires, don’t always give accurate reports of their beliefs, and understand joint commitments

- Emotional Development
  - Expressing, understanding, and regulating emotions
  - Emotion-coaching and emotion-dismissing parents and the regulation of emotion and peer relations
    - Emotion-coaching: parents monitor their child’s emotions, view them as opportunities for teaching, and coach them in how to deal with emotions effectively
    - Emotion-dismissing: parents view their role as to deny, ignore, or change negative emotions

- Moral Development
  - Moral Feelings:
    - Psychoanalytic theory emphasizes feelings of anxiety and guilt
      - Children identify with parents to reduce anxiety and avoid punishment
      - Superego: moral element of personality
Moral Development

- Moral Reasoning (Piaget)
  - Heteronomous morality (4-7 years)
  - Justice and rules are unchangeable
- Transitional phase (7-10 years)
- Autonomous morality (10+ years)
  - Rules and laws are created by people

- Moral Behavior:
  - Ability to resist temptation and delay gratification is closely tied to the development of self-control
  - Conscience – internal regulation of standards of right and wrong

Parenting and Young Children’s Moral Development

- Parenting and child relationships, averting potential misbehavior, and conversations all contribute to a child’s moral development

Gender

- Gender Identity: the sense of being male or female
- Gender Roles: sets of expectations that prescribe how females or males should think, act, and feel
- Gender Typing: acquisition of a traditional masculine or feminine role
Emotional and Personality Development

- Gender
  - Biological Influences:
    - Chromosomes (XY are males, XX are females) and hormones
    - Evolutionary psychologists: adaptation during human evolution produced psychological differences between males and females
  - Social Influences
    - Parental Influences: Socialization Strategies
      - Mother’s Socialization Strategies and Father’s Socialization Strategies
    - Peer Influences:
      - Playground referred to as ‘Gender School’
      - Gender molds peer relations
      - Gender composition of children’s groups
      - Group size
      - Interaction in same-sex groups

- Social Influences
  - Social Theories of Gender
    - Social Role Theory: gender differences result from the contrasting roles of women and men
    - Psychoanalytic Theory: the preschool child develops a sexual attraction to the opposite-sex parent (Oedipus or Electra complex)
    - Social Cognitive Theory: gender development occurs through observation and imitation

- Parental Influences:
  - Mother’s Socialization Strategies and Father’s Socialization Strategies
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- Percentage of social playtime
  - 4.5 years old
  - 6.5 years old
  - Same sex
  - Mixed group
Emotional and Personality Development

- Gender
  - Cognitive Influences:
    - Social cognitive theory: gender develops through observation, imitation, rewards, and punishment
    - Gender schema theory: gender typing emerges as children develop gender schemas of what is gender-appropriate vs. inappropriate

Families

- Parenting
  - Baumrind’s Parenting Styles:
    - Authoritarian: parents demand obedience and respect
    - Authoritative: encourages children to be independent while placing limits and controls on action
    - Neglectful: parent is very uninvolved in child’s life
    - Indulgent: parents highly involved but place few demands or controls on the child

- Parenting Styles in Context
  - Authoritative parenting:
    - May be most effective type for variety of reasons
    - In some ethnic groups, authoritarian parenting may be associated with better-than-predicted outcomes

- Punishment
  - Cross-culturally, U.S. and Canada are among those most favoring corporal punishment
  - Correlational research shows use of corporal punishment is linked to antisocial behavior
  - Alternatives include reasoning with the child and the use of time-outs
**Families**

Corporal Punishment in Different Countries

- Parenting
  - Coparenting: the support that parents provide one another in jointly raising a child
  - Poor coordination between parents, undermining one parent, lack of cooperation and warmth, and disconnection by one parent places child at risk for problems

- Child Maltreatment
  - Types of Child Maltreatment:
    - Physical abuse
    - Child neglect
      - Can be physical, educational, or emotional
    - Sexual abuse
    - Emotional abuse

- The Context of Abuse
  - No single factor causes child maltreatment
  - Contributing factors:
    - Culture
    - Family
    - Developmental characteristics of the child
Families

- Child Maltreatment
  - Developmental consequences of abuse
    - Poor emotional regulation
  - Attachment problems
  - Difficulty in school and peer relations and maintaining healthy intimate relationships
  - Other psychological problems, such as depression and delinquency

- Sibling Relationships & Birth Order
  - Sibling Relationships:
    - Siblings have frequent conflicts
  - Parent intervention is beneficial
  - Three Important Characteristics:
    - Emotional quality
    - Familiarity and intimacy
    - Variation

Sibling Relationships & Birth Order

- Birth Order:
  - Linked with certain personality characteristics
  - ‘Only Child’ can be positive

Families

The Changing Family

- The Changing Family in a Changing Society
  - Working Parents
    - Work can produce positive and negative effects
  - Children in Divorced Families
    - Children from divorced families generally show poorer adjustment than children from intact families
  - Divorce can be advantageous if marital problems are affecting the well-being of the children
  - Conflict in non-divorced families is associated with emotional problems in children
Gay Male and Lesbian Parents:
- 20% of lesbians and 10% of gay men are parents
- Research has found few differences between children growing up with lesbian mothers or gay fathers; children are not any different from those living with heterosexual parents

Cultural, Ethnic, and Socioeconomic Variations:
- Cross-Cultural Studies
  - Many cultures are changing due to increased globalization
- Ethnicity
  - Families within different ethnic groups differ in size, structure, composition, reliance on kinship networks, and levels of income and education
- Socioeconomic Status
  - Lower-SES parents vs. higher-SES parents

Peer Group Function
- Provide a source of information and comparison about the world outside the family
- Necessary for normal socioemotional development

Developmental Change
- Preference for same-sex playmates increases in early childhood
- Increase in overall frequency of peer interactions
Peer Relations, Play, and Television

- **Peer Relations**
  - Friends
    - A friend is someone to play with
  - The Connected Worlds of Parent-Child and Peer Relations
    - Warmth, advice giving, and provision of opportunities by mothers and fathers were linked to children’s social competence and social acceptance
    - Children’s peer relations linked to attachment security and parents’ marital quality

- **Play**
  - Types of Play
    - Sensorimotor and Practice Play
    - Exercises infant’s sensorimotor schemes
    - The repetition of behavior when new skills are being learned or mastered
    - Pretense/Symbolic Play
    - Child transforms the physical environment into a symbol
    - Pretend play is an important aspect of young children’s development

- **Play’s Functions**
  - Theorists have focused on different aspects of play:
    - Freud and Erikson: helps child master anxieties and conflicts
      - Play therapy
    - Piaget: play advances cognitive development
    - Vygotsky: an excellent setting for cognitive development
    - Berlyne: satisfies our exploratory drive

- **Play Therapy**
  - Helps children master anxieties and conflicts

- **Types of Play**
  - Social play: involves interaction with peers
    - Constructive play: children engage in the self-regulated creation of a product or a solution
    - Games: activities that are engaged in for pleasure and have rules
Peer Relations, Play, and Television

- Television
  - The most influential medium that affects children’s behavior
  - Children watch an average of 2–4 hours of television each day
  - Effects of Television on Children’s Aggression
  - Effects of Television on Children’s Prosocial Behavior