

Life-Span Development Thirteenth Edition

Chapter 10: Socioemotional Development in Middle and Late Childhood

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Emotional and Personality Development

The Self

- The Development of Self Understanding
 - During middle and late childhood:
 - Defining one's "self" shifts to using internal characteristics or personality traits.
 - Children recognize social aspects of the self
 - Social comparison increases

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Emotional and Personality Development

- The Self
 - Understanding Others
 - Children show an increase in perspective taking – the ability to assume other people's perspectives and understand their thoughts and feelings
 - Children become increasingly skeptical of others' claims

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Emotional and Personality Development

- The Self
 - Self-Esteem and Self-Concept
 - Self-esteem: global evaluations of the self
 - Self-concept: domain-specific evaluations of the self
 - Children with high self-esteem
 - Do not necessarily perform better in school
 - Have greater initiative (can be positive or negative)

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Emotional and Personality Development

• The Self

- Four Ways to Improve Self-Esteem
 - Identify causes of low self-esteem
- Provide emotional support and social approval
- Help child achieve
- Help child cope

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Emotional and Personality Development

• The Self

- Self-Efficacy: belief that one can master a situation and produce favorable outcomes
- Increased capacity for self-regulation
 - Deliberate efforts to manage one's behavior, emotions, and thoughts, leading to increased social competence and achievement

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Emotional and Personality Development

• The Self

- Industry vs. Inferiority (Erickson)
 - Industry: children become interested in how things work
 - Inferiority: parents who see their children's efforts as mischief may encourage inferiority

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Emotional and Personality Development

• Emotional Development

- Developmental Changes Include:
 - Improved emotional understanding
 - Increased understanding that more than one emotion can be experienced in a particular situation
 - Increased awareness of the events leading to emotional reactions
 - Ability to suppress or conceal negative emotional reactions
 - Use of self-initiated strategies for redirecting feelings
 - A capacity for genuine empathy

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Emotional and Personality Development

- Emotional Development
 - Coping with Stress:
 - Older children generate more coping alternatives to stressful situations
 - Coping with stressful events:
 - By 10 years of age, most children are able to use cognitive strategies to cope with stress

Emotional and Personality Development

- Moral Development
 - Lawrence Kohlberg's Theory:
 - Based on Piaget's cognitive stages
 - Proposed 3 levels and 6 universal states of moral development
 - Developed stages based on interviews using moral dilemmas

Emotional and Personality Development

Kohlberg's Moral Development



Emotional and Personality Development

- Moral Development
 - Influences on Kohlberg's Stages:
 - Cognitive development
 - Experiences dealing with moral questions/conflicts
 - Peer interaction and perspective taking are crucial

Emotional and Personality Development

- Moral Development
 - Kohlberg's Critics
 - Moral Thought and Behavior
 - Too much emphasis on thought, not enough emphasis on behavior
 - Culture and Moral Reasoning
 - Theory is culturally biased

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Emotional and Personality Development

- Moral Development
 - Kohlberg's Critics
 - Families and Moral Development
 - Kohlberg underestimated
 - Gender and the Care Perspective
 - Gilligan argues that Kohlberg's theory is based on a male norm
 - Social Conventional Reasoning
 - Inadequate distinction between moral reasoning and social conventional reasoning

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Emotional and Personality Development

- Moral Development
 - Prosocial Behavior:
 - Emphasized behavioral aspects of moral development
 - Moral Personality:
 - Three possible components:
 - Moral identity
 - Moral character
 - Moral exemplars

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Emotional and Personality Development

- Gender
 - Gender Stereotypes – broad categories that reflect general impressions and beliefs about males and females
 - Gender Similarities and Differences
 - Physical development
 - Cognitive development
 - Socioemotional development

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Emotional and Personality Development

- Gender
 - Gender Role Classification
 - Individuals can have both masculine and feminine traits
 - Androgyny – presence of positive masculine and feminine traits in the same person
 - Androgynous individuals are more flexible, competent, and mentally healthy
- Gender in Context
 - Traits people display may vary with the situation

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Families

- Developmental Changes in Parent-Child Relationships
 - Parents spend less time with children during middle and late childhood
 - Parents support and stimulate children's academic achievement
 - Parents use less physical forms of punishment as children age

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Families

- Parents as Managers
 - Parents manage children's opportunities, monitor behavior, and initiate social contact
 - Important to maintain a structured and organized family environment

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Families

- Stepfamilies
 - Remarriages involving children has grown steadily in recent years
 - Half of all children from a divorced family will have a step-parent within 4 years
 - More than 75% of adolescents in established stepfamilies describe their relationships with stepparents as "close" or "very close"
 - Relationships usually better with custodial parents than with stepparents

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Peers

- Developmental Changes:
 - Reciprocity becomes increasingly important in peer interchanges during elementary school
 - Size of peer group increases
 - Peer interaction is less closely supervised by adults
 - Children's preference for same-sex peer groups increases

Peers

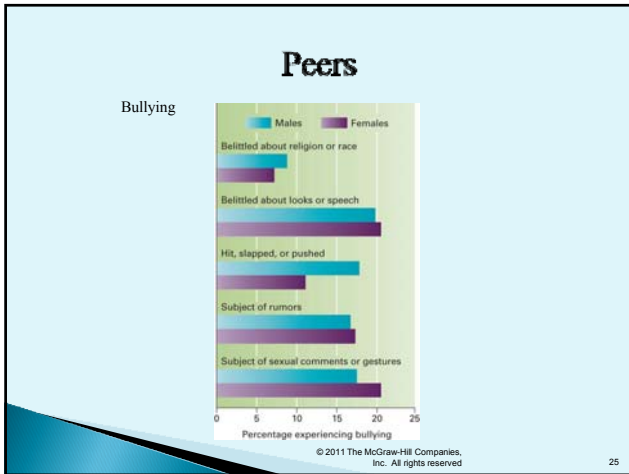
- Peer Status
 - Popular Children
 - Average Children
 - Neglected Children
 - Rejected Children
 - Controversial Children

Peers

- Social Cognition: thoughts about social matters
 - Important for understanding peer relationships
 - 5 steps in processing social information (Dodge)
 - Decode social cues
 - Interpret
 - Search for a response
 - Select an optimal response
 - Enact

Peers

- Bullying
 - Verbal or physical behavior intended to disturb someone less powerful
 - 70-80% of victims and bullies are in the same classroom
 - Boys and younger middle school students are most likely to be affected
 - Outcomes of bullying:
 - Depression, suicidal ideation, and attempted suicide
 - More health problems



- ### Peers
- Friends
 - Typically characterized by similarity
 - Serve six functions:
 - Companionship
 - Stimulation
 - Physical support
 - Ego support
 - Social comparison
 - Affection and intimacy
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- ### Schools
- Contemporary Approaches to Student Learning
 - Constructivist and Direct Instruction Approaches
 - Constructivist Approach: learner-centered approach that emphasizes the importance of individuals actively constructing their own knowledge and understanding
 - Direct-Instruction Approach: structured, teacher-centered approach
 - Characterized by teacher direction and control
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- ### Schools
- Contemporary Approaches to Student Learning
 - Accountability
 - No Child Left Behind Legislation (NCLB) (2002)
 - Statewide standardized testing
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Schools

- Socioeconomic Status, Ethnicity, and Culture
 - Low-income, ethnic minority students have more difficulties in school
- U.S. students have lower achievement in math and science than a number of other countries
- The Education of Students from Low-Income Backgrounds
 - Minority and low-SES students face more barriers to learning

Schools

- Socioeconomic Status, Ethnicity, and Culture
 - The Education of Students from Low-Income Backgrounds
 - Most low-SES area schools tend to have:
 - Lower test scores, lower graduation rates, and lower college-attendance rates
 - Young teachers with less experience
 - Fewer resources

Schools

Socioeconomic Status, Ethnicity, and Culture

- Ethnicity in Schools
 - Almost one-third of all African American and Latino students attend schools in the 47 largest city school districts in the U.S., compared with only 5 percent of all White and 22 percent of all Asian-American students
 - Many inner-city schools are still segregated, grossly underfunded, and do not provide adequate learning opportunities

Schools

- Socioeconomic Status, Ethnicity, and Culture
 - Cross-Cultural Comparisons of Achievement:
 - The poor performance of American children in math and science is well publicized
 - Asian teachers spend more of their time teaching math than American teachers
 - Asian students average 240 days a year compared to 178 in the U.S.
 - American parents believe academic achievement is due to innate ability while Asian parents contribute achievement to effort and training

