

Types of Family

- Nuclear Family
- Extended Family
- Single-parent Family
- Reconstituted Family

Characteristics of Contemporary American Families

- Diversity is the norm
- Marrying, having children later
- Higher divorce rates
- More single-parent families
- More remarriages/ reconstituted families
- More births to single moms/ decline in birth rate
- Higher family incomes

Family Life Cycle - Duvall

Family membership changes over time

- Relationships within family change
- 8 stages of family life cycle
 - Members have distinctive roles to master

Stage 1: The New Couple

- Formation of new system
- Realigning extended family and friendships



Stage 2: Families with Young Children

- Birth of oldest child until child is 36 months old
- Accepting Newcomer
- Decline in Marital Satisfaction
- Temperament



Temperament

- Tendencies to respond in predictable ways to events
- Thomas & Chess – 5 main dimensions
 - Typical mood
 - Regularity/predictability of biological functions
 - Tendency to approach/withdrawal
 - Intensity of emotional reactions
 - Adaptability to new experiences/changes in routine

Temperament Categories

- Easy (40%)
- Difficult (10%)
- Slow-to-warm-up (15%)

Stage 3: Preschool-aged Children

- Oldest child between 3 and 5 years
- Siblings
 - Sibling rivalry: spirit of competition, jealousy and resentment between parents.
- Discipline



Operant Conditioning

- Positive reinforcement: strengthening of a response whose consequence is a pleasant event.
- Negative reinforcement: strengthening of a response because it is followed by removal of an unpleasant event.
- Punishment: decreases strength of a preceding event

Stage 4: School-aged Children

- Oldest child between 6 and 12 years
- Siblings
- Discipline

Stage 5: Families with Adolescents

- Adapting to teens' independence
- Shifting parenting style
- Refocusing on marriage and career
- Joint care of older parents



Stage 6: Launching Children and Moving on

- 1st child leaving until last child leaves
- Empty nest syndrome
- Accepting exits and entries to family
- Adapting to the "two of us"
- Shift to peer relationships with children
- Inclusion of in-law



Stage 7: Retirement

- Coping with disability/death of parents
- Inclusion of grandchildren
 - Grandparenthood Styles
 - Remote (29%)
 - Companionate (55%)
 - Involved (16%)



Stage 8: Later Life

- Until death of both parents
- Adapting to physical decline
- Dealing with loss of key people
- Life review and integration
- Preparing for own death

Parenting Style - Baumrind

Two Dimensions of Parenting

- Acceptance/responsiveness: extent to which parents are supportive, sensitive to needs, affectionate, willing to praise. Acceptance of demands placed by children.
- Demandingness/control: how much control over decisions lie with parent as opposed to child.

Parenting Styles

Demandingness

	Child Centered	Adult Centered
Responsive Control	Authoritative	Authoritarian
Unresponsive Uncontrolled	Permissive	Neglectful

Authoritarian

- Characteristics
 - High value on parental authority, obedience, order
 - One-way control
 - Strict limits on child's communication
 - Strict punishment
- Outcomes
 - Social competence
 - Moral development
 - Self-concept
 - Aggression
 - Direction of causality is unclear
 - Longitudinal studies show no long-term association

Permissive/Indulgent

- Characteristics
 - Tolerance of child's impulses
 - Little punishment
 - Few demands for mature behavior
 - Few rules
 - Child makes own decisions whenever possible
- Outcomes
 - Insecure
 - Self-centered
 - Low self-discipline
 - Rebellious

Authoritative/Reciprocal

- Characteristics
 - Clear standard setting
 - Expectation for mature behavior
 - Firm enforcement for rules
 - Encouragement of independence
 - Open communication
 - Recognition of rights of parents/children
- Outcomes
 - Social competence
 - Self-esteem
 - Moral development

Neglectful

- Characteristics
 - Lacks commitment to parental role
 - At extreme levels – abusive, neglectful
- Outcomes
 - Deficits in all aspects of psychosocial functioning by age 2
 - Aggression
 - Disobedience
 - Delinquency

Small Group Activity

- The child is watching TV. The parents announce that it is time for bed, but the child refuses to go.
- A child knows she is supposed to make her bed in the morning before going to school but she consistently waits too late. If she makes the bed, she'll miss the school bus and will need a ride to school.
