

Types of Family

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

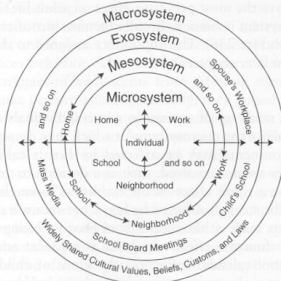
Characteristics of Contemporary American Families

- 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

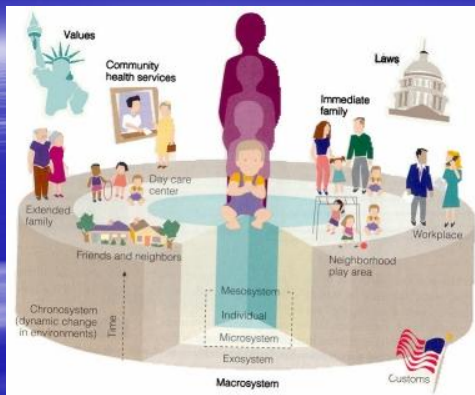
4 Levels of System Functioning

- Microsystem: Immediate surroundings (e.g., family)
- Mesosystem: The interrelationships between microsystems
- Exosystem: Not directly experienced, but influential
- Macrosystem: Larger social class and culture
- Chronosystem: Changes across time

Figure 2.1 ♦ Topological Model of the Environment: A Schematic Diagram of the Levels of the Environment in Bronfenbrenner's (1979) Ecological Systems Theory



Note: Arrows across rings indicate reciprocal interactions at all levels.



Bronfenbrenner: Developmental Issues

- We are born with NEITHER negative or positive tendencies
- We are Actively Involved in Self-Development & the Environment
- Person & Environment are BOTH in a state of flux
- Nature & Nurture are BOTH influential
- Can have qualitative and quantitative change
- Most Development is NOT universal
- Many Dynamic Contexts: Social, Historical, and Cultural

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
- Realignment 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

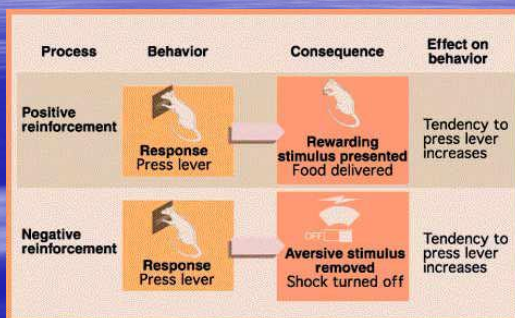
- Oldest child between 3 and 5 years
- Siblings
 - Sibling rivalry: spirit of competition, jealousy and resentment between parents.
- Discipline



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

Reinforcement



Limitations of Punishment

- Only suppresses existing behaviors
- Potential serious social consequences
- Learned helplessness
- Can lead to aggression/antisocial behaviors
- Only works in presence of punisher

Using Punishment Effectively

- Punish as soon as possible
- Punish with appropriate amount of intensity
- Punish consistently
- Be otherwise warm
- Explain yourself
- Reinforce alternative behavior
- Consider alternative responses to misbehavior

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

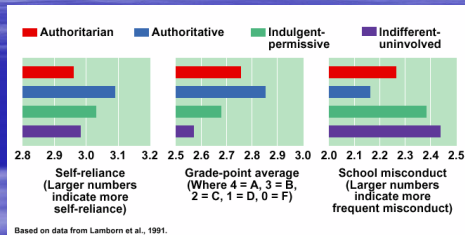
Authoritative/Reciprocal

- 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

Effects of Parenting Styles



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.

Parent-centered vs. Child-centered Child Rearing

- Large, longitudinal study – Pulkkinen
- Characteristics of Parents
 - Does parent monitor child's whereabouts?
 - Does parent have daily conversation and show interest in child's school activities?
 - Does parent consider child's opinions?

Parent-centered vs. Child-centered Child Rearing

- Outcomes

- Adolescents of parent-centered:

- Impulsive
 - Aggressive
 - Uninterested in school
 - Drinking, smoking, date early

- Age 20

- Excessive drinking
 - Arrest record
 - Hedonistic, lack emotional control
