

Social Development

- Various theories attempt to account for aspects of development such as
 - Emotion
 - Personality
 - Attachment
 - Self
 - Peer relationships
 - Gender

True or False?

1. Males are more aggressive than females.
2. Males are more active than females.
3. Females are more social than males.
4. Females have stronger verbal abilities than males.
5. Males have higher achievement motivation than females.
6. Males are more analytical than females.
7. Females are more suggestible and prone to conform than males.
8. Females are more emotionally unstable than males.
9. Males are more rational and logical than females.
10. Males have greater spatial and mathematical abilities than females.

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- **Gender typing** - the process through which children become aware that they are biological males or females AND through which they acquire motives, values and patterns of behavior appropriate for members of their biological sex.

Theories of Social Development

- **Psychoanalytic Theories**
 - Freud's Psychosexual Development
 - Erikson's Psychosocial Development
- **Learning Theories**
 - Watson's Behaviorism
 - Skinner's Operant Conditioning
 - Social Learning Theory
- **Social Cognition Theories**
 - Selman's stage-theory of role-taking
 - Dodge's Information Processing Theory of Social Problem Solving
- **Ecological Theories**
 - Bioecological Model
 - Ethological and Evolutionary Theories

Psychoanalytic Theories

- Development driven by biological maturation.
 - Stage theories
 - Passive child
 - Individual is stable - role of early experience
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- **Freud's Psychosexual Development**
 - **Erikson's Psychosocial Development**

Freud (1856-1939) on Gender Typing

- The individual pushed around by external and internal forces beyond the individual's control or understanding.
- Boys
 - Oedipus complex - love mother/fear father
 - Fear of castration motivates boys to identify with father
 - Absent or inadequate father did not foster strong identification.
- Girls
 - Electra complex - desire father(+ penis envy)/mother rivalry
 - To resolve conflict, identifies with mother
 - Father reinforces "feminine" behavior

Consistent evidence?
Inconsistent evidence?

Learning Theories

- Development driven by experience.
 - Continuous
 - Early theories - Passive child
Later theories - Active child
 - Emphasize mechanisms of change
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- **Watson's Behaviorism**
 - **Skinner's Operant Conditioning**
 - **Social Learning Theory**

• **Watson** (1878-1958) *Behaviorism*

- Children's development is determined by their social environment - how their parents treat them.
- *Psychological Care of Infant and Child* (1928)

• **B.F. Skinner** (1904-1990) *Operant Conditioning*

- We tend to repeat behaviors that lead to favorable outcomes (reinforcement) and suppress behaviors that lead to negative outcomes (punishment).
- Every act is an **operant response** based on outcomes of past behavior.
- Attention is a powerful reinforcer.

• **Bandura Social Learning Theory**

- Focus on **observation** and **imitation** as learning mechanism.
- Learning mostly social. Reinforcement increases likelihood of imitation, but it is not necessary for learning.
- **Reciprocal Determinism**: child-environment influences operate in both directions.

Social Learning Theory on Gender Typing

- **Differential reinforcement** - children are rewarded for sex-appropriate behaviors, punished for behaviors appropriate for the other sex.
- **Observational learning** - children adopt the attitudes and behaviors of same-sex models.

Consistent evidence?

Inconsistent evidence?