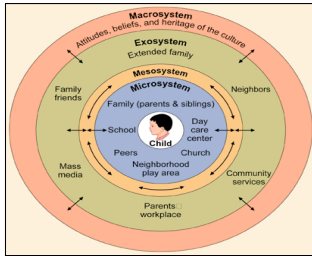


## Chapter 14: Family Relationships

- 14.1 Parenting
- 14.2 Changing Family
- 14.3 Brothers and Sisters
- 14.4 Maltreatment



## Dimensions and Styles

- Two major dimensions of parenting
  - Parental acceptance/responsiveness: (warmth or **involvement**)
  - Parental demandingness/**control**

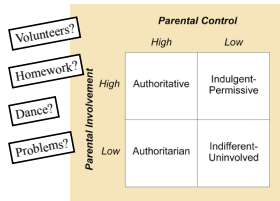


Figure 15-2

## Effects of Parental Style

**TABLE 15.1 Relationships between Child-rearing Patterns and Developmental Outcomes in Middle Childhood and Adolescence**

Child-rearing pattern	Outcomes	
	Childhood	Adolescence
Authoritative	High cognitive and social competencies	High self-esteem, excellent social skills, strong moral/spiritual concern, high academic achievement
Authoritarian	Average cognitive and social competencies	Average academic performance and social skills; more conforming than adolescents of permissive parents
Permissive	Low cognitive and social competencies	Poor self-control and academic performance; more drug use than adolescents of authoritative or authoritarian parents

Source: Baumrind, 1977, 1991; Steinberg et al., 1994.

## Parental Control

- **Direct instruction:** telling children what to do, when, and why.
- **Observing:** children learn from watching others, including parents and their treatment of siblings (*counterimitation*).

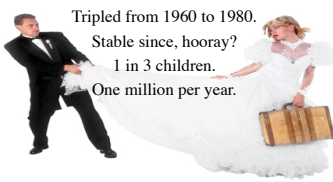
## Feedback

- **Reinforcement** useful but parents often unknowingly reinforce behaviors they want to prevent (**negative reinforcement trap**).
- **Punishment** must be swift, consistent, explained, and warm. (**time-out**).
- Works best if can replace bad behaviors.

## Children's Contributions

- Age related changes in parenting.
  - Aww mom!
- Temperament matters
  - Difficult Children make for more controlling parents.

## Divorce



## Family Life After Divorce

- Immediately after, children behave **less maturely** and parenting is **less effective**
- Over time, children's and parents' behavior improves but problems common between mothers and sons during adolescence

## Impact of Divorce

- Divorce affects children's school achievement, conduct, adjustment, self-concept, and relationships with parents.
- Why?
  - **loss of role model, help and support**
  - **economic hardship**
  - **conflict** is distressing (the wranglings after divorce are often MORE disruptive).

## Negative Impact of Divorce is lessened by

- Adequate financial support.
- Adequate parenting by custodial parent.
- Social/emotional support from non-custodial parent.
- Co-parenting & both parents important but watch out for conflict.
- Additional Social Support.
- Divorce mediation & minimizing additional stress.

## Blended Families

- Most divorced people remarry.
- When divorced women remarry, sons usually benefit from a stepfather but daughters often resent the intrusion.
- Stepparents: Step lightly!

## Gay and lesbian families

- In the U.S., several million gay men or lesbians are parents, most through previous heterosexual marriages.
- More than 90% of adult children of lesbian mothers or gay fathers develop a heterosexual orientation.
- Children of gay and lesbian parents are just as cognitively, emotionally, and morally mature as children of heterosexual parents.

## Qualities of Sibling Relationships

- Birth of a sibling can be distressing for toddlers and young preschoolers.
- Siblings most likely to get along when (1) sibs are of the same sex, (2) neither sib is emotional, (3) the younger sib enters adolescence, (4) parents show no favoritism, and (5) parents have a warm relationship

## Only, Firstborn, and Laterborn Children

- **Only** children resemble children with sibs, but only children are often **smarter, more mature, better leaders.**
- **Firstborns** tend to be more **adult- and achievement-oriented (smarter);**
- **Laterborns** tend to be more **innovative and sociable (popular).**

## Adoptive families (2-4%)

- Is a correlation between adoption and learning difficulties, emotional problems, conduct disorders, and delinquency (likely because of preexisting difficulties)
- Adult's **desire to be a parent** is much more important to a child's outcomes than the adult's genetic ties to the child.
  - Vast majority turn out great!
  - Adopted children typically fare **much better in adoptive homes** than in foster care.
- Adoption system in U.S. is changing from a confidential system to a more open system.

## How Serious?

- 3 million cases a year.
- 27% of women, 16% of men - some form of inappropriate fondling or worse.
- 4 out of 5 convicts were abused.

## Consequences of Abuse

- Intellectual deficits/Academic difficulties.
- Depression, Social anxiety & Low self-esteem.
- Disturbed relationships with teachers and peers.
- More likely to be abusive with their companions in childhood and to abuse their own kids (30%).
- Good news is most are resilient - especially if establish a warm supportive relationship with someone else.

## Causes of Maltreatment

- **Drugs or Alcohol** -- 20 to 40% of abusers.
- **Cultural and social factors** -- attitudes, poverty, social isolation.
- **Children** -- very young and ill children more often targets, as are stepchildren.
- **Parental Factors** -- unhappy, stressed adults with limited parenting skills.

## Preventing Maltreatment

- Identify high-risk families.
  - Home-visitor programs that address material, psychological, and educational needs.
- Political decisions to make bad areas better.
  - Beautification and family-oriented projects.
  - Tougher laws: 35 to 50% of child fatalities are in cases that law and child protection agencies already know about!