

A child observes many things in order to be able to embark on her own journey

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A blessed couple has a baby, who joins the family journey and then grows into a child. The child must observe, hear and learn many things in order to be able to embark on her own journey in the future. In a child's early years, he or she (hereafter, "she") learns through the parents' words and deeds within the family. The couple's relationship as parents greatly influences the character of the child, her emotional stability and the development of her personality.

Later, in the child's life, she will go beyond the borders of the family and experience new environments. How the parents raise the child in the family affects how well she adapts to those new environments. I think that if a child grows up in a healthy family environment, learns well and has many good experiences, she will adjust to new surroundings well.

In this article, I would like to contemplate the fourth developmental stage of the family life cycle: childhood. The definition of childhood varies from scholar to scholar, however, for this article, I have defined childhood as the time between infancy and adolescence. That is, between two years old and twelve years old.

We can divide childhood into two parts according to the environment of the child. The first half of childhood spans the ages two to five, when the child mostly lives within the family home and observes the actions of the parents. She hears and mimics what she has seen.

In the second half of childhood, between the ages of five and twelve, the child's environment expands to kindergarten and elementary school. Another characteristic this second half is she will experience relationships with peers.

Childhood is an important time for the child's development of language, and acquisition of knowledge and emotional and social skills. Thus, the child depends on the parents physically and psychologically. This period is a very important time, in which the parents' attitudes and roles in child rearing have great influence over her. Parents have certain developmental duties to fulfill within the family life cycle during childhood.

Develop excellent systems The first is to establish an ideal parenting and disciplining system and to prepare a safe and appropriate environment. During childhood, not only is the child's development in the areas of intellect, emotion, and mental health important, but the development of social skills is important as well.

Therefore, the family environment is important as a sphere for a child to grow within and develop in a healthy manner. This is because, during the first half of childhood, the child will live with her parents and learn through observing their actions. The skills she learns during this time greatly influences how she adapts to new environments in the latter half of childhood.

A family environment where parents love each other, live in harmony, and communicate well promotes the child's intellectual and emotional development. In addition, an emotionally stable family environment allows a child to develop a healthy personality, which will bring future happiness to the family. A warm family environment filled with love will be more a comfortable one for a child and give her a feeling of

safety, which she is unlikely to have in an excessively authoritarian or cold family environment.

A child brought up in a warm home environment will grow to become diligent and have self-esteem. Dividing parental duties The second developmental task is that parents must equally divide parenting responsibilities, such as earning money and housework. If due to a lack of experience, parents go through many difficulties during their child's infancy, even more difficulties will be awaiting the parents during her childhood. As a child begins to walk and talk, she requires even more attention, parenting, discipline and education, all which require more effort and money. This only increases once a child enters kindergarten and elementary school. Parents are able to overcome all of this much more easily when they share the tasks of parenting together. These days, with so many families having two working parents, sharing these tasks is even more important. Stress caused by parenting can cause spousal conflict, which will make a harmful impression on the child.



Parents and grandparents The third developmental task is in relation to the readjustment of the roles of parents and grandparents in the extended family. In an agrarian society, to continue living with one's parents even after marriage is normal. However, the present society has passed through an industrial society into an information society. Therefore, in many cases children marry and live separately from their parents.

However, once a child is born, including grandparents in the family again is becoming common. When a child is born to a newlywed couple, in which both parents work and have limited time to care for their children, a parent often asks the maternal or fraternal grandparents to help care for their grandchildren. In this case, some reorganization of the extended family is necessary, to include both the roles of parents and grandparents.

A loving grandmother and grandfather can promote the healthy growth and development of a child as well as be of some help in the home. Let's take a look at an example: There was a child who was attending kindergarten, however he was extremely violent, unable to focus and resisted the teacher. Finally, the kindergarten director suggested counseling for this child. He was a seven year-old boy who was violent and would push and hit the other children, as well as grab other's things.

He was unable to focus in class. He would get up and walk around so that the teacher would be unable to continue conducting the class. At home, he would speak very little and play with his cars and robots, though he mostly enjoyed crashing the toys together to mimic accidents or fighting.

The mother was puzzled as to why her child would play quietly at home but would be unable to focus and adjust to class. Through counseling sessions with the child and parents, I was able to understand the child's behavior.

Both parents were thirty-five years old and working. During the early years of their marriage, the couple did not experience any disagreements. However, once their son was born, the wife had to bear the responsibilities of parenting, housework, and the duties as a wife of an eldest son, which in traditional societies puts great burdens on her shoulders. The exhausted wife began to nag her husband more and the two fought often.

Gradually, the husband, claiming he was busy, would come home after ten o'clock every night and would drink until even later about twice a week, causing the couple to fight sometimes. When the couple would fight, the husband would throw things and yell, causing the family to be in a constant state of chaos and insecurity.

This case is an example of how an unstable family environment caused by marital conflict led to a child filled with tension, anxiety and fear. The younger the child is, the more deleterious the influence of marital conflict is. A child feels a fight between parents is a danger to his very existence.

As a result, fear and anxiety fill the child, making him feel oppressed and thus aggressive. A symptom often found in anxious children is a tic or nail biting. We can see that marital conflicts and fights have much more influence over children than adults realize. If we want our children to become better people and happier than we are, we must create a more harmonious and happy family environment for our children. Parents should take to heart that our children are mirrors of us and work hard at expressing abundant love.