

- Kohlberg's theory
 - Considered how kids respond to moral dilemmas
 - Kids reasoning about moral issues becomes more sophisticated with development
 - 3 levels, (6 stages) of moral reasoning
 - Internalization defines levels and stages
 - Level/Stage change based on perspective taking opportunities and experienced conflicts
 - Level 1: Preconventional level
 - Dominates most of childhood (early to middle childhood)
 - No internalization
 - Focus on rewards and punishments related to actions
 - Level 2: Conventional Level
 - Late childhood to early adolescence
 - Intermediate internalization
 - Beliefs based on what others have taught
 - Considers:
 - How will the action be judged by others?
 - Will it lead to the approval by others?
 - Level 3: Post conventional Level
 - Adolescence and young adulthood
 - Total internalization
 - Beliefs based on what you think is right and wrong
 - Go through a questioning stage (ex- abortion)
- Moral development
 - Kohlberg suggested: School aged child Internalization is intermediate
 - Accepting the rules of others
 - Most Americans seem to be operating on Level 2
 - Boys are further along than girls, especially in individualistic societies
- Criticism
 - Kohlberg only researched middle class, white boys
 - Gilligan
 - Girls use a morality of care and connectedness emphasizing nurturance and compassion
 - Males base morality on justice
 - Ex- independent rights
- Peer Relationships: Developmental Changes
 - Peers become more important
 - Peer interaction increases for recreation, group identification, and friendships
 - Peer competence impacts future (can predict well being later on)
 - Size of group increases and adult supervision decreases with age
 - Same-sex group preferences until age 12
 - Same sex groups about 85% of the time
- Friendship in Middle Childhood
 - Like each other's personal qualities

- Trust becomes important
 - More selective in choosing
 - Friendships can last several years
 - Influence each other's behavior
- Peer Acceptance: Peer Statuses
 - Popular (12%)
 - Frequently nominated as a best friend
 - Rarely disliked by peers
 - Two types:
 - Prosocial/sociometric
 - Prestige
 - Average (60%)
 - Receive average number of positive and negative votes
 - Neglected (6-7%)
 - Infrequently nominated as a best friend, but not disliked by others
 - Often put energy into school work
 - Fly under the radar
 - Rejected (12%)
 - Infrequently nominated as a best friend
 - Actively disliked by peers
 - Two types:
 - Aggressive
 - Withdrawn
 - Controversial (6-7%)
 - Frequently nominated as someone's best friend and as being disliked
- Peer Acceptance Categories
 - Peer acceptance: powerful predictor of current and later psychological adjustment
 - Rejected children are
 - Unhappy
 - Alienated
 - Poorly achieving
 - Low self esteem
 - Peer rejection in middle childhood is also strongly associated with
 - Dropping out
 - Antisocial
 - Delinquents in adolescence
 - Poor school performance
 - Absenteeism
 - Criminality in emerging adulthood
- Aggression
 - Physical aggression decreases during middle childhood
 - Social/relational aggression peaks during transition between middle childhood and adolescence
- Gender differences
 - See Figure 12.2: Differences in Social versus Physical Aggression by Age
 - Sharp spike in girls' social aggression
- Bullies and Their Victims

- o About 1 in 10 are victimized.
- o Victimization leads to adjustment problems, including depression, loneliness, low self-esteem, and poor school performance.
- o Girls bully differently