

Midterm 2 Class Notes

Socialization and Gender Identity

- **Parents** can be blamed for gender influence
 - Socialization starts prior to birth and immediately upon birth. Genderize immediately. Applying labels right away.
 - “bouncing baby boy or beautiful baby girl”
 - mothers tend to have higher warmth and responsiveness with girls, and more independence with boys.
 - If a girl cries, mother babies her. If a boy cries, mother says you’re so tough, you can do it etc.
 - **Girls** are fragile and if injured, need time out. Social interaction. Encouraged to be relational and dependent.
 - **Boys** should get right back up. Even with homework, mom finds girls answers, and mom tells boy to keep working.
 - **Fathers** tend to be much more involved with boys than girls, and do much more physical activity with them
- **Peers**
 - “boys don’t play in kitchens, girls do!” if a boy plays in kitchen, boys will call him sissy for gender atypical behavior. Boys really get punished if they cross gender lines.
 - Girls are able to cross gender boundaries, but still receive a little bit of punishment.
- **Teachers**
 - Boys get more time and attention than girls do.
 - Boys are more active in the classroom- allowed to perform more misbehavior before a consequence than girls. This teaches boys to test limits and question their worlds.
 - Girls are more constrained than boys
 - Teachers help girls more quickly and let boys struggle a little bit longer. Overestimate boys abilities in math and science.
 - Both parents and teachers rate boys more positively than girls.

- **The Media**
 - Plays a role in promoting gender roles
 - Superman – boy, powerpuff and wonderwoman- girls
 - Boys have weapons and are fighting. They have muscles
 - Girls- shapely, lighter shades, pink and girly backgrounds
 - Active vs. passive
 - Very easy to tell girl ads from boy ads

Development of Gender and Identity Roles

- Parallel development of identity and stereotypes – developing the whole set of rules
- Awareness of gender (young)
 - 3 years old- potty training
- Gender stability
 - Recognition of retaining gender for lifetime
 - By age 4-5
- Gender Consistency – I am a boy and will be a boy when I grow up
 - Gender does not change, even if appearances do
 - By age 6-8
 - 90% of Halloween costumes are gender

Sexual Behaviors in Childhood

- Child sex play.
 - Kids are curious about their own bodies and other people's bodies.
 - Curious about other children and adults.
- **Common! Lamb & Coakley (1993)**
 - Girls with other girls and boys with other boys – more frequent
 - Dissipates by around first grade
 - Look at adults if they engaged in sex play
 - 85% of women in studies sex play as children that involved touching
 - minority noted cross gender play
 - common for kids to explore in sex play
 - doctor type play

- **What behaviors are typical/atypical?**
 - **Typical**- kissing, hugging, touching, looking, talking
 - They kiss and hug a lot
 - **Atypical**- oral sex, using objects, sexual contact with animals, penetration
 - See these things more in an experience where kids experiences sexual not goodness
- **Parent worries (about sex play)**
 - “because boy sex play with another boy = gay” NOT TRUE
 - no relationship between gender of child you engage with sex play with as a kid and orientation as an adult.
 - Kids pick kids to engage in sex play with who they have access too and see all the time
 - Caught kid doing sex play → emotional/ psychological damage. But this is actually typical and normative.
- **How SHOULD Parents react?**
 - They should not freak out
 - They should react in a calm way, and nonjudgemental, realize they are curious
 - They should stop kids and say this is an adult behavior, are there questions that I can answer for you about bodies?
 - Worse outcomes in adulthood if parents interact with blame and shame and guilt. Poor relationships in marriage

When to worry- Sexual Behaviors Between Kids

- **Expected-**
 - stops when adult intervenes
 - silly, lighthearted, spontaneous, giggly
 - no use of coercion (if she doesn't want to show and he begs her to show that's coercive)
- **Worrisome -**
 - doesn't stop/ gets secretive
 - anger, loneliness, shame, retaliation
 - use of persuasion or coercion
 - concerning if somebody with more power is engaging with someone with less power
 - worrisome if there is a difference in size (big kid and small kid because it leads to pressure sometimes)