Socialization — is the process whereby the helpless infant gradually becomes a self aware, knowledgeable person, skilled in the ways of the culture into which he or she was born.
Genie - “the feral child”
Raised in isolation for 13 years, neglected, and severely emotionally and intellectually delayed.

What was missing in this child’s development?

Were there any things different in how you were raised and how she was raised?

What might happen if she was raised in just the opposite type of environment?
Theories of Child Development

1. Piaget’s Cognitive Development
   Based on the development of “schemas” through the process of accommodation and assimilation

2. Children “think” differently than adults!

3. Development through “stages”
   a. Sensorimotor Stage
   b. Preoperational Stage
   c. Concrete Operation Stage
   d. Formal Operation Stage
Freud – Psychosexual Development

1. Development is based on the emergence and fulfillment of unconscious sexual energies called “libido”

2. Development occurs in “stages”
   a. Oral Stage
   b. Anal Stage
   c. Phallic Stage
   d. Latency Stage
   e. Genital Stage
3. Freud emphasized the importance of the parents (especially the mother) as agents of socialization.
4. This was especially important with respect to nursing a child, toilet training, and the sexual development of the infant.
Kohlberg – Moral Development

1. Kohlberg focused on the child’s ability to reason out what is the “right” and “wrong” things to do based on “hypothetical” moral dilemmas.

2. Children can be in one of three groups based on their responses.
   a. Pre-conventional (based on punishments or consequences)
   b. Conventional (based on right vs. wrong)
   c. Post-conventional (based on “universal principles”)

3. Gilligan – Argues that moral development is not based on the idea of consequences or right/wrong but on the
The “Baby Psychologists” believed that children were NOT miniature adults!

Before the 1940’s and 1950’s there was a sentiment and strong belief that children were merely small adults and should not be coddled. They needed to be treated just as you would treat a grown up.

This belief changed thanks to the research of a number of psychologist and pediatricians like Harry Harlow, Benjamin Spock, Mary Ainsworth, Barry Brazelton, Fred Rogers (yes, as in Mister), Bruno Bettelheim, etc.)
But, what do sociologists have to say about socialization?

Remember that sociologists see things through the lens of social groups. Of course, even child development can be combine the individual in the group.

George Herbert Mead say development through “play”.
Mead thought that kids went through three distinct stages involving first independent play, then parallel play, and then gaming.

Through this process the child learns how to be a social actor. They learn how to be “me”.

They learn their own role and the roles of others. Think about a child learning how to play the game of T-ball or soccer.
From his research Mead coined two terms that most everyone has heard of but may not know where the came from:

1. “Generalized other” – the general values and moral rules of the culture in which they are developing.
2. “Significant other” – the specific values and moral rules of those most influential (parents especially) in a child’s life.
Other sociologists describe socialization as occurring in more broad phases with many different individuals called “agents” of socialization.

These agents include

a. The family
b. Schools
c. Peer relationships
d. The “media”
e. Work
Keep in mind that we have been talking here about “primary” socialization of children. Socialization and development occur throughout the lifespan.

Erik Erikson believed that there were 8 stages of human development and, unlike Freud, development occurs until death. He also believed that the driving force was NOT sex but, instead, “psychosocial crises” that the individual must resolve.
• **Infant**  
  *Trust vs Mistrust*  
  Needs maximum comfort with minimal uncertainty to trust himself/herself, others, and the environment

• **Toddler**  
  *Autonomy vs Shame and Doubt*  
  Works to master physical environment while maintaining self-esteem

• **Preschooler**  
  *Initiative vs Guilt*  
  Begins to initiate, not imitate, activities; develops conscience and sexual identity

• **School-Age Child**  
  *Industry vs Inferiority*  
  Tries to develop a sense of self-worth by refining skills
● **Adolescent**  
  *Identity vs Role Confusion*  
  Tries integrating many roles (child, sibling, student, athlete, worker) into a self-image under role model and peer pressure.

● **Young Adult**  
  *Intimacy vs Isolation*  
  Learns to make personal commitment to another as spouse, parent or partner.

● **Middle-Age Adult**  
  *Generativity vs Stagnation*  
  Seeks satisfaction through productivity in career, family, and civic interests.

● **Older Adult**  
  *Integrity vs Despair*  
  Reviews life accomplishments, deals with loss and preparation for death.
What are the agents of socialization for:

a. Young Adults

b. Middle Adults

c. Older Adults
What are the agents of socialization for:

a. Young Adults
   Work, college environment, their “new” social scene, other couples, being part of a social community, etc.

b. Middle Adults
   New or changing careers, continuing education, changing family status, etc.

c. Older Adults
   Retirement and retirement activities, agencies associated with aging