

Mead & Harlow: monkeys and mirrors

Socialization in Early Development

Socialization

- The **lifelong process of social interaction** through which individuals acquire a self identity and the physical, mental, and social skills needed for survival in society.
- Socialization is the essential **link between the individual and society.**



Socialization

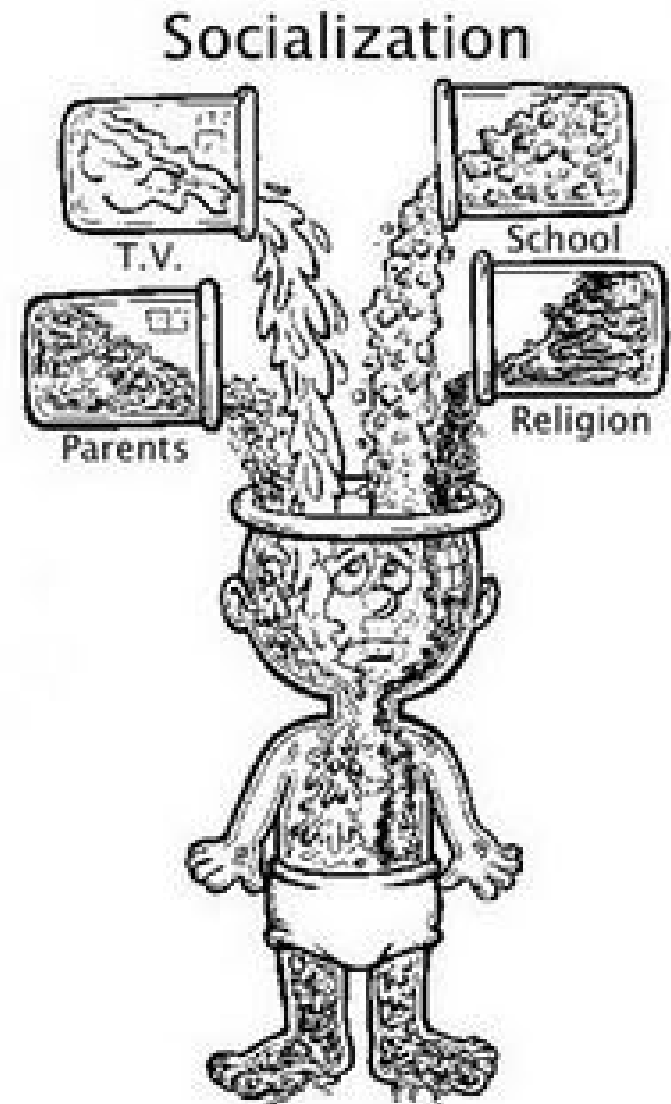
- Teaches us ways to think, talk and act that are necessary for social living.
- Ensures that members of society are socialized to support the existing social structure.
- Allows society to pass culture on to the next generation.



“The first few years of life have a major influence on child's success later in life. Although each child develops at his or her own pace, numerous studies show that development is fastest during the period before the age of three. Children's brains develop incredibly fast, and nerve connections that are forged during that period through interaction with those closest to them remain unchanged for the rest of their lives.”

-UNICEF

United Nations Children’s Fund



“It can be said that this critical period of a child's development offers great opportunities for each child, but it is also the period when those opportunities can be wasted. Poor upbringing in the first years of life is later reflected in feelings of dissatisfaction with life, impaired relationships, learning difficulties, eating disorders, high rates of crime and violence, addiction and other personal and social issues.”



-UNICEF

Harry Harlow

(1905-1981)

An American psychologist best known for his maternal-separation and social isolation experiments on rhesus monkeys, which demonstrated the importance of caregiving and companionship in social and cognitive development.



Harlow studies rhesus monkeys relationships with surrogate mothers in the late 1950's.



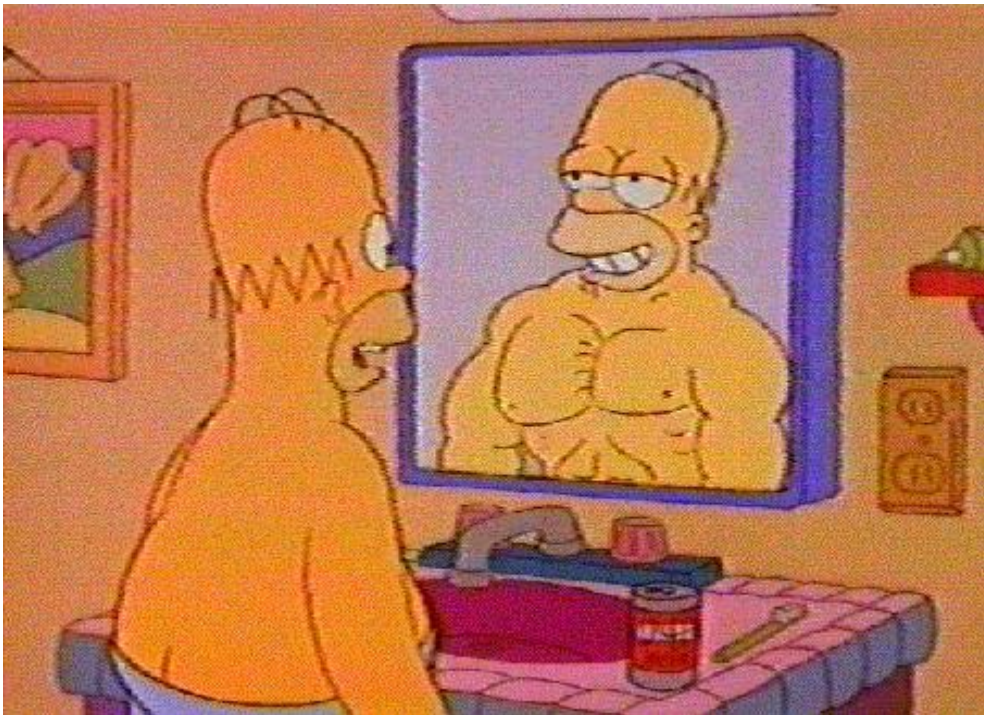
Harlow's Conclusions

- Infants need intimacy, warmth, physical contact and comfort.
- Infants without social contact become distressed, apathetic, withdrawn, hostile adults



Self-Concept

An image of yourself, separate from other people



Looking-Glass Self

An image of yourself based on what you believe others think of you



Looking-Glass Process

1. Imagine how we appear to others
2. Imagine the reaction of others
3. Evaluate ourselves accordingly



George Mead

Body

vs.

Self



Mead's Stages

- 1. Imitation Stage** – child imitates w. out knowing why – learning basic actions/behaviors

Example:
baby smiles when it
sees mother smile



Mead's Stages

2. Play Stage – child acts in ways they imagine others would – they are learning the roles of others (thought process, behaviors, language, etc.)

Example:
Children play doctor, teacher, house, etc. to learn the roles of important others in their lives.



Mead's Stages

3. Game Stage – child anticipates the actions of other based on social rules

Example:

- As children learn to play sports, they learn to play specific roles.
- They begin to understand how they fit into a system with others.

