5: Parenting Spotlight - Do parents understand child development?

Parenting Spotlight

Realistic Expectations

Directed at parents, the following article touches on a disconnect between **parental expectations** of toddler/early childhood behavior and the **actual developmental capacities** of children in these stages.

[Are parents expecting too much? - article from Parents magazine](http://www.parents.com/toddlers-preschoolers/everything-kids/are-you-expecting-too-much-from-your-toddler/)

5: Early childhood Language - Additional Resources

Language Development is AMAZING!

"Imagine that you are faced with the following challenge. You must discover the internal structure of a system that contains tens of thousands of units, all generated from a small set of materials. These units, in turn, can be assembled into an infinite number of combinations. Although only a subset of those combinations is correct, the subset itself is for all practical purposes infinite. Somehow you must converge on the structure of this system to use it to communicate. And you are a very young child..."

[The acquisition of language by children (Links to an external site.)](http://www.pnas.org/content/98/23/12874.full.pdf)

Not all language errors made by children are because they heard them from their parents! Children are processing the language and making their own hypotheses about how language works. This article explores some of the how and why of this part of language learning.

[Children's Language Errors](http://www.alphadictionary.com/articles/ling001.html)

# 5: Autism & Neurodiversity

## Examining Autism

### Acceptance instead of a "cure"?

Please read the following article discussing the controversy around autism and the degrees of awareness and acceptance.

[The Controversy Around Autism and Neurodiversity (Links to an external site.)](https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/my-life-aspergers/201704/the-controversy-around-autism-and-neurodiversity)

### Supporting Children with Autism

The following book offers strategies for teachers and parents working with children with autism. Take a look a the table of contents and select a section or two to review.

[Strategies to Support Children with Autism and Other Complex Needs : Resources for Teachers, Support Staff and Parents](http://proxy.lib.miamioh.edu/login?url=https://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&AuthType=cookie,ip&db=nlebk&AN=1086632&site=eds-live&scope=site&ebv=EB&ppid=pp_123)

# Parenting Spotlight - Tough Conversations for Parents

## Tough Topics in Parenting

Please review each of the following resources carefully and with an open mind

### Race

As adults it is difficult to talk about race. What happens when your child asks about differences in skin color? We can't ignore the social, economic, and other implications of this socially-constructed identity marker.

[Color-blindness as intellectual child abuse (Links to an external site.)](https://medium.com/%40timjwise/color-blindness-as-intellectual-child-abuse-raising-anti-racist-kids-in-an-unequal-society-cc5e3278a40)

### Sex

It's important to be open about information with children. When they ask where babies come from, given them a simple, honest answer! Answer the question that is asked, rather than giving all of the related details.

[Talking about sex early and in developmentally appropriate contexts (Links to an external site.)](https://www.aboutkidshealth.ca/Article?contentid=718&language=English)

It's also important to use anatomically correct terms for genitals.

[Call Children's Private Body Parts What They Are (Links to an external site.)](https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/going-beyond-intelligence/201703/call-children-s-private-body-parts-what-they-are)

### Death

At another difficult time for adults, children may not understand the concept of death, especially if we are not direct about how we explain what has happened to the pet/person who has died.

[The dog isn't sleeping](https://www.npr.org/2019/03/04/698309351/the-dog-isnt-sleeping-how-to-talk-with-children-about-death)

# 5: Early Childhood Psychosocial Development

## Reading

As you read through the final chapter in this module, make sure to consider the previous chapters as well.

* How does culture affect each of the three areas (physical, cognitive, psychosocial)?
* What impact does parental influence have during this stage of development?
* How do relationships with family and caregivers pave the way for friendships and social interaction?

[Psychosocial Development in Early Childhood](https://miamioh.instructure.com/courses/109527/files/12801459/download?wrap=1) from [Child Growth & Development (Links to an external site.)](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1B4e6oKPTFeUE9tXsJMcjsczb6Kj7EfEb/view) (open source textbook)

Please also review the following about the development of gender differences through socialization.

[Understanding Sex & Gender (Links to an external site.)](https://open.lib.umn.edu/sociology/chapter/11-1-understanding-sex-and-gender/)

# 5: Early Childhood Additional Resources

## Gender Socialization & Modeling

Consider gender and culture in this [comic strip (Links to an external site.)](http://maximumble.thebookofbiff.com/2012/10/05/480-dolled/).

Please review this[brief compilation (Links to an external site.)](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/04/16/gender-facts-traditional-roles_n_5115265.html) of some of the ways that culture and gender expectations have evolved over time.

Example of a script, identification, gender identity/modeling (TV commercial)

 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7N5_i4cC6ls&feature=emb_logo>

And finally, another example of how children model adult behavior and the importance of parental influence.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5JrtpCM4yMM (Links to an external site.)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5JrtpCM4yMM)

# 5: Parenting Spotlight - Styles and Discipline

## Spotlight on Parenting

In this module, you've come across the 3-4 commonly known parenting styles as outlines by Diana Baumrind, and later Eleanor Maccoby and John Martin. For a review, check out this open source book chapter on [Children and Parental Discipline (Links to an external site.)](https://open.lib.umn.edu/sociology/chapter/15-5-children-and-parental-discipline/).

You'll also notice that there are various criticisms of Baumrind's study, and "good" parenting is truly a combination of responding to the child's individual differences, cultural expectations and context, and specific parenting behaviors. Here you are presented with some other representations of parenting that are currently being discussed in the popular sphere.

### Attachment Parenting

Attachment parenting is a relatively new label for some very old parenting strategies. As society has advanced and Western traditions of individualism have developed, parenting techniques changed. Attachment parenting is a response to this change, and you can review the [principles of attachment parenting (Links to an external site.)](http://www.attachmentparenting.org/principles/introduction) for more detail.

### How empathetic parenting physiologically affects parents [[article (Links to an external site.)](http://psycnet.apa.org/journals/hea/35/3/211.pdf)]

Empathetic parenting is considered to have a variety of positive outcomes for children, and you can review these as part of the introduction to the [research article (Links to an external site.)](http://psycnet.apa.org/journals/hea/35/3/211.pdf). This research study continues on to investigate how empathetic parents are physically affected by children's emotions.

### Parenting won't be the end of physical well-being

In response to the above article's findings, [this summary (Links to an external site.)](http://www.slate.com/blogs/xx_factor/2016/03/02/being_an_empathetic_parent_probably_won_t_physiologically_destroy_you.html) of research on health effects related to parenting offers some positive benefits. It also stresses the importance of self-care for parents as part of the larger family health dialog (as also discussed as part of attachment parenting).

### Gentle Parenting

How can you parent with no rewards and no punishment? Gentle parenting seeks to do this. Read more in the article ["Gentle Parenting" explainer (Links to an external site.)](http://theconversation.com/gentle-parenting-explainer-no-rewards-no-punishments-no-misbehaving-kids-31678).