the
HISTORY
of
PARENTING
PRACTICES
Worksheets
History of Parenting Practices Video

“Why Do Parents Do What They Do?”

This video will look at the history of Parent Education over the past 100 years. It will highlight the events, policies and legislation, and theorists of each 20-year period beginning with 1900. Use this study guide to help you obtain the key points.

** Parenting is a ____________ experience.

1900-1920

A. ____________________ Believed that early life experiences will affect personality later on.

B. ____________________ Behaviorism theory—which stated that you can shape a child into whatever you want them to be.

1920-1940

A. ____________________ Identified typical growth and development patterns for height, weight and motor skills in young children.

B. ____________________ Psychosocial theory—which states that a child’s behavior develops in various stages. That a person, over time, can change, and that the amount of change is dependent on how a person deals with significant events at different stages.

1940-1960

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A. ____________________ Researched mother-child attachment. He felt a mother and child were “hard-wired” in their brain to connect emotionally.

B. ____________________ Behavior modification theory. “Catch them being good and reinforce positive behavior.”

C. ____________________ “Common sense” parenting theory. “Don’t be too harsh or too easy, listen to your heart”, he would say.

1960-1980

A. ____________________ Cognitive Development or how children think and learn at different stages.

B. ____________________ Logical and natural consequences to teach responsibility and self-discipline.

C. ____________________ Hierarchy of needs.

D. ____________________ Studied parenting styles—authoritarian, permissive, authoritative; and family dynamics.

1980-2000

A. ____________________ Social ecology for child development—different “layers” of people around the child all influence the total development of the child.

B. ____________________ Tried to focus on the individual differences in children and how family lifestyles are changing.
History of Parenting Practices Video
“Why Do Parents Do What They Do?”

This video will look at the history of Parent Education over the past 100 years. It will highlight the events, policies and legislation, and theorists of each 20-year period beginning with 1900. Use this study guide to help you obtain the key points.

** Parenting is a **learned** experience.

1900-1920

- Immigrants arrive in the U.S. which lead to issues of poverty and health concerns.
- Child laborers

- Children’s Bureau in the Dept. of Labor
- Smith-Lever Act—Home Demonstration Agents (Agriculture)
- Smith-Hughes Act—Vocational Education for Homemaking
- Public health services for parents

A. **Sigmund Freud** Believed that early life experiences will affect personality later on.
B. **John Watson** Behaviorism theory—which stated that you can shape a child into whatever you want them to be.

1920-1940

- The roaring 20’s—time of great affluence led to the depression. Unemployment, and loss of material possessions put great stress on the family.

- Family support programs like nursery schools were started.
- Parenting classes were offered by universities
- Parents magazine began

A. **Arnold Gesell** Identified typical growth and development patterns for height, weight and motor skills in young children.
B. **Erik Erikson** Psychosocial theory—which states that a child’s behavior develops in various stages. That a person, over time, can change, and that the amount of change is dependent on how a person deals with significant events at different stages.

1940-1960

- With the end of WWII people were optimistic about the future. The suburbs grew and so did the population. This was the time of the Baby boom.
The GI bill was introduced to help all these new families.
The national mental health act—focused on a child’s psychological well-being.
The American’s Parent’s Association --lobbyists for parents was started.

A. **John Bowlby**  
   Researched mother-child attachment. He felt a mother and child were “hard-wired” in their brain to connect emotionally.
B. **B.F. Skinner**  
   Behavior modification theory. “Catch them being good and reinforce positive behavior.”
C. **Dr. Benjamin Spock**  
   “Common sense” parenting theory. “Don’t be too harsh or too easy, listen to your heart”, he would say.

1960-1980

- Social change and unrest, civil rights, the war in Vietnam were all part of this time.
- Oil shortages, feminism, and abortion rights...

- The War on Poverty program
- Head Start
- Child abuse and prevention programs gained attention.

A. **Jean Piaget**  
   Cognitive Development or how children think and learn at different stages.
B. **Rudolf Dreikurs**  
   Logical and natural consequences to teach responsibility and self-discipline.
C. **Abraham Maslow**  
   Hierarchy of needs.
D. **Diana Baumrind**  
   Studied parenting styles—authoritarian, permissive, authoritative; and family dynamics.

1980-2000

- Aids, increased homelessness, two-income households, technology
- Countries collapsed and boundaries shifted

- Family Leave Act
- The Family Resource Coalition
- Parent Education programs like ECFE...

A. **Urie Bronfenbrenner**  
   Social ecology for child development—different “layers” of people around the child all influence the total development of the child.
B. **T. Berry Brazelton**  
   Tried to focus on the individual differences in children and how family lifestyles are changing.
Additional Activities:

*Students take on the role of a theorist.*

*Advertising Campaign.*

*Observation of Parent-child interaction.*

*Parent Interview.*

*Futurist thought — What will the family of the new millennium look like?*
Students as Legislators.

Critical thinking activity.

Brainstorm for issues

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Choose one or more topics to consider

Students develop pro/con positions on their chosen issue.

Students prepare to argue both sides.

Each pair presents their position in 2 minutes.

Reverse the perspectives in the group by each pair arguing the opposing pair’s position

Come to a group decision that all four can agree with.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Government Policy</th>
<th>Child Theorist</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>masses had more money Great Depression unemployment</td>
<td>WPA – Work Project Administration Universities offered parenting classes professional parenting organizations were founded</td>
<td>Gesell – researched typical growth &amp; development patterns like when a typical child starts crawling, walking and running. Erikson – child's behavior develops in stages. A person can change over time, &quot;ego&quot; development is a lifetime process.</td>
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<td>Rock’nRoll/Elvis Hollywood mass market production: cars, tv's, appliances increase birthrate</td>
<td>GI Bill National Mental Health Act – child's psychological well-being Lobby group – American Parent's Association</td>
<td>Bowlby – researched and wrote about mother/child attachment, they were connected &quot;emotionally&quot;. Skinner – focused on a child's environment and the influence it had. Reinforced the positive behavior with social praise. Spock – a pediatrician emphasized flexibility and moderation in child rearing. Trust their feelings, heart and enjoy parenting.</td>
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<tr>
<td>idealism multiple political associations civil rights Vietnam War oil shortages disco feminism WaterGate</td>
<td>War on Poverty Headstart Child Abuse Programs Child Care Programs Disability Programs</td>
<td>Piaget – researcher focusing on how children think and learn at different stages. He believed children learn because they are motivated to make sense of the world. Dreikur – spoke of logical and natural consequences. Natural consequences are based on natural conditions - a child will wear a coat because they are cold. Through logical consequences, the parent is hoping the child learns self-discipline and responsibility - if you drink, you can't drive. Maslow – a psychologist who believed we all need to satisfy our basic needs before we grow intellectually &amp; emotionally. Baumrind – focused on parenting styles and family dynamics. Parenting styles refer to how parents choose to control their children. Authoritarian – child never questions parent; Permissive – child does anything they want; Democratic – parents show concern and affection while listening to child</td>
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<td>Yuppies, two-income household balance between work and family Junk bonds AIDS homeless new countries being formed Internet</td>
<td>Family Leave Act Family Resource Coalition was founded State Initiative to develop parent education programs Initiatives for young, unmarried mother &amp; fathers</td>
<td>Bronfenbrenner – social ecology theory of people surrounding the child that influences them, like the family, child care providers, religion, work and government and other influence on culture and values. Brazelton – focused on understanding the individual differences in children and how family lifestyles are changing.</td>
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Other Parenting Practice Information:

Explosive Topics:

Sources of Information:

Independent Study:
# Events, Policies, Theories from 1900-2000 in Parenting Practices

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Events, Policies, Theories from 1900-2000 in Parenting Practices

Answers will vary: our parents, education, religion, medicine, psychologists, child studies, friends, media, or government

Answers will vary: Use the "Events, Policies & Theories in Parenting Practices" handout for answers.

by reading, discussing, role models, or studying parent practices

Parenting theories have changed

Major events like wars, the economy and family composition

Government programs and policies

Information on parenting through books, media, internet

It gives parents the tools they need to raise their children, and to be better human beings.