CHAPTER 3
Infancy and Childhood

Background on Gender Development
Gender typing
Prenatal period
Infancy

Prenatal Sex Development
sex chromosomes
Typical Prenatal Development
Development of the internal reproductive system
• Müllerian ducts
• Wolffian ducts
Development of the gonads
Production of hormones
• androgen
• estrogen
Development of the external genitals
Atypical Prenatal Development
• intersexed individual
• androgen-insensitivity syndrome
• congenital adrenal hyperplasia

Important cultural questions

People's Responses to Infant Girls and Boys
Parental Preferences About Sex of Children
People's Stereotypes About Infant Girls and Boys
Parents' ratings of infant sons and daughters
Environments for infant sons and daughters
Strangers' judgments
Interactions with girls and boys
Greeting cards
Social Constructionism
Theories of Gender Development

The Social Learning Approach
- Children are rewarded for "gender-appropriate" behavior, and they are punished for "gender-inappropriate" behavior
- Children watch and imitate the behavior of other people of their own gender

The Cognitive Developmental Approach
- Children develop powerful gender schemas
- Children actively use gender schemas to evaluate themselves and the people around them

Factors That Shape Gender Typing

Parents
- Infants vs. Toddlers
- Gender-Typed Activities
  - Chores
  - Toys
  - Discouraging "gender-inappropriate" activity
- Male children, male adults
- Conversations About Emotions
  - Daughters vs. sons
  - Different emotions discussed
  - Fathers vs. mothers
- Attitudes About Aggression
  - Research inconsistent
  - Imitation
  - Power dynamics
- Attitudes About Independence
- Individual Differences in Parents' Gender Typing
  - ethnicity
  - social class
• nontraditional gender beliefs
Peers

Peer Group
Rejection of Nontraditional Behavior
Gender Segregation
entitlement
Gender Prejudice
Differential Treatment
Attractiveness, Prosocial Behavior & Aggression

School

Teachers' Behavior
• girls as invisible
• provide boys with more positive feedback and attention
• ignore girls of color
• discourage assertiveness and responsibility
• emphasize gender roles through a variety of messages

Encouraging Change in North American Schools
• gender-fair education
• de-emphasize gender schemas
• pay equal attention to girls
• reduce inappropriate stereotypes about gender

Gender and Education in Nonindustrialized Countries
• schooling
• literacy
• employment
• birth rates and infant mortality

The Media

Books
role models & self-esteem

Television
• frequency
• activities
• learning gender-role stereotypes
• parental controls and involvement
Children’s Knowledge About Gender

Infants & Gender Categorization

Children’s Stereotypes About Activities and Occupations
  “Gender Appropriate” Activities
  Memory for Activities
  Gender Schemas & Occupations

Children’s Stereotypes About Personality

Factors Related to Children’s Gender Stereotypes

• ethnicity
• social class
• cross-cultural research
• family views
• age