

Moral Development II

Overview

The emergence of moral behavior takes place from infancy through adolescence. The major influence on the moral development of the child is the model provided by the parents. The child's negative and positive experiences in his or her family and community may inhibit or enhance the developing sense of right or wrong. Religious institutions and schools also play a role in the development of moral values during childhood.

Questions to consider

1. How does a child decide what is good or bad, right or wrong?
2. How do parents teach children to become good people?
3. What is the best way to teach moral behavior to children?
4. How influential on moral development is membership in a religious institution?
5. Should moral values be taught in schools?

Vocabulary

Read these terms with their definitions before reviewing the program.

Attachment An affectionate tie between two people with a consistent desire for contact and closeness.

Conscience The internal sense of right and wrong.

Empathy The ability to experience the emotions of another

Moral codes Rules which communicate how individuals

should act in various settings.

Non-universal moral values values that include the personal duties and obligations of each individual.

Reinforcement The process whereby a particular behavior is rewarded thus ensuring its repetition.

Trust The infant's sense that the world is a safe place.

Universal moral values Values that affirm the fundamental human worth and dignity of every person.

Instructional Objectives

When you have successfully completed this module, you will be able to:

1. Trace the development of morality from infancy to adolescence.
2. Describe the ways in which parents encourage or discourage moral development in their children.
3. Discuss the influence of religion on the development of morality.
4. Describe the educational environment which stimulates moral development.
5. Evaluate programs currently in use in schools to teach moral behavior.

Self-Test

After studying the objectives and watching the video, take the self-test to check your progress.

1. Write an example of moral behavior in each of the following stages of childhood

a. infancy _____

b. toddlerhood _____

c. school age child _____

d. adolescence _____

In the following select the phrase which best completes the statement.

2. Infants learn about empathy when their basic needs are
 - a. met immediately
 - b. met within a reasonable time
 - c. frustrated
 - d. harshly dealt with

3. Recent research indicates that
 - a. neglected children have the same capacity for emotional attachments as other children.
 - b. reinforcement of moral behavior is less effective than correcting immoral behavior.
 - c. children learn moral behavior mainly through the modeling of those close to them.
 - d. moral learning is thwarted if children are attached to care givers.

4. During the child's second year
 - a. the parents intent is to help the child learn a reasonable amount of self control.
 - b. redirecting behavior is rarely necessary.
 - c. it is too early for the child to learn the difference between right and wrong.
 - d. the threatened loss of parental affections leads to the development of an effective conscience.

5. The parental example of moral behavior is most effective for the developing conscience during the child's
 - a. infancy
 - b. toddlerhood
 - c. school age
 - d. adolescence

6. Confronting the parents about their moral lapses is typical of
 - a. toddlers
 - b. preschoolers
 - c. schoolers
 - d. adolescents

7. Discuss the influence of religious beliefs on the moral judgment and behavior of children.

8. Define the following
- a. non universal moral values _____
 - b. universal moral values _____

9. In column 1 name five techniques used in the schools which strengthen positive moral values. Give an example of each in column 2

1	2
a. _____	a. _____
b. _____	b. _____
c. _____	c. _____
d. _____	d. _____

10. Select the school programs for teaching moral values and behavior shown in the module and evaluate its effectiveness.
