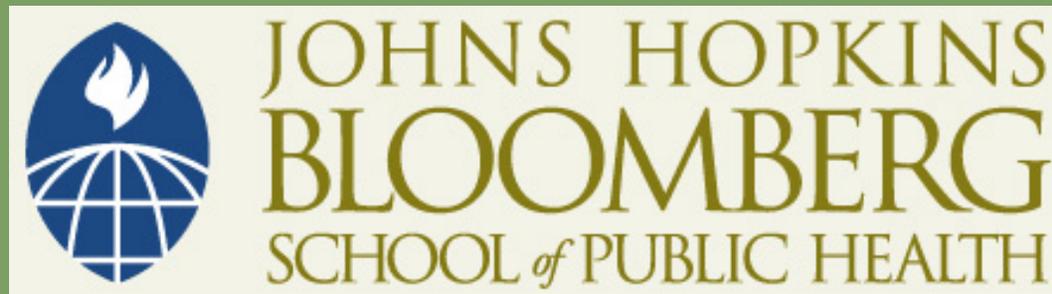


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Language and Conceptual Framework for Early Child Development

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Section A

Defining Terms and a Changing View of Children

Defining Child Health

- Children's health is the extent to which individual children or groups of children are able or enabled to (a) develop and realize their potential, (b) satisfy their needs, and (c) develop the capacities that allow them to interact successfully with their biological, physical, and social environments
 - Institute of Medicine. (2004). *Children's health, the nation's wealth*.

Childhood

- **Preschool age (early childhood)**
 - 3 to 5 years of age
 - Period marked by rapid growth in many areas—physical growth, cognitive capacities, social and emotional skills
 - Family is the primary context for development
 - Much recent focus on birth-to-3-years period
- **School age (late childhood, middle childhood)**
 - 6 to 10 years of age
 - Physical and cognitive growth less rapid, but significant biological changes set stage for adolescence
 - Period marked by transition to school and expanding social world, notably peers
 - Historically this stage has received little attention

Our Notions of Normal Child Behavior Have Shifted

- In the early nineteenth century, heavy drinking was common even among children 10-12 years old
- Poverty was seen as the result of drunkenness
 - New York Children's Aid Society
 - Rise of "Child Savers"



An Abrupt Transition in the Mid-1800s

- In the mid-1800s transition from childhood to adulthood was often abrupt
- One day children were told to put away their books—that they were going to work
 - Children accounted for up to half of family income
 - Children as young as 7 were apprenticed
 - In many states, age of consensual sex was under 12 years

School

- Horace Mann wrote of its importance in the 1850s ... compulsory education did not take root until the early 1900s
- In the early 1800s, schooling was more likely to be reserved for girls
- Public education was supported by labor unions of the 1800s
- The prevailing notion in the mid-1800s was that schooling was bad for women's physical and mental health

Child Labor

- Increasingly, automation diminished the need for child labor
- By 1917 there was almost no demand for children in the workforce

