Reasons for Studying Child Development

1. You may be a father or mother some day.
2. You will learn about the person you are.
3. You will learn how to care for and understand children.
4. You can better plan your future for the responsibilities of parenting.
5. You may choose a career that involves working with children.

- Preschool Teacher
- Pediatrician / Nurse
- Social Worker
- Family Therapist
- Daycare Worker

- Elementary School Teacher
- Nanny
- Coach or Camp Director
- Speech Language Pathologist
- Photographer
Children have the right to...

- A loving & secure human relationship
- Have proper nutrition, health care & safe living conditions
- Be protected from people who would harm them
- Be taught essential living skills
- Non-abusive discipline
- Learn basic values and moral behavior
- Be a unique individual & develop individual talents

* Whose responsibility is it to make sure that the child is getting these things?
Early Childhood Scenarios

✗ She is the daughter of a teenage mother. She lived with her grandmother for the first few years of her life. When she was six, she went to live with her mother. At age nine, male relatives and a family friend began sexually abusing her. The abuse lasted for four years. She tried to run away but was caught and sent to a juvenile detention center. The center was full, so she was out on her own at age 14.

✗ Do you know who this person is?
Early Childhood Scenarios

Oprah Winfrey

- Is an American television host, actress, producer, and philanthropist, best known for her self-titled, multi-award winning talk show, which has become the highest-rated program of its kind in history. She has been ranked the richest African American of the 20th century and beyond.

- Many have dubbed her the most influential woman in the world.
Early Childhood Scenarios

✓ He was born to a teenage mother. At the age of 5, his mother was imprisoned for armed robbery. He went to live with an aunt and uncle who were very religious. When his mother had served her sentence, she reclaimed him. At age 13, he committed his first armed robbery and was sent to a juvenile detention center for boys. He spent the rest of teenage years in a variety of juvenile detention centers.

✓ What do you think happened to this person?
Early Childhood Scenarios

- Charles Manson - serial killer
  - One of the most feared and dangerous men alive. He was the master mind of Helter-Skelter murders. This was a 2 day killing spree in which many people were left mutilated and dead.
Early Childhood Scenarios

- He is one of thirteen children. He never knew his father and his mother was addicted to drugs most of his childhood. He attended 11 different schools in nine years. He was forcibly removed from his mother’s care by the department of human services. He lived with foster families and with friends, but in high school he became homeless.

- Do you know who this person is?
Micheal Oher

An American football offensive tackle for the Baltimore Ravens in the NFL. He was drafted by the Ravens in the first round of the 2009 NFL Draft. He played college football at the University of Mississippi. The movie “Blindside” was based on his story.
Early Childhood Scenarios

✗ She began acting at age three and charmed Americans with her appearances in commercials and movies. As a teenager, she developed an eating disorder and began experimenting with drugs and alcohol. She has been in and out of jail and treatment facilities for repeated drug and alcohol charges.

✗ Do you know who this person is?
Early Childhood Scenarios

- Lindsay Lohan
- An American actress, pop singer and model. She began her career as a child fashion model before making her motion picture debut with Disney at the age of 11. She has attracted significant publicity, particularly surrounding her personal life.
Does what happen to a person early in life impact them later in life???
You can choose to either **overcome** or **succumb** to negative situations and influences in your own childhood.

There is no question that we are influenced and molded by our childhood, but the big question is **how do we react to it?**

As a parent you should strive to build a positive base.

Although a good childhood does not guarantee success and happiness, it is a great place to start.
Turn to page 6 in your packet and complete the Personal Development Evaluation.
Nature vs. Nurture

Where do our characteristics and our personality come from? Are they learned? Or are they inherited?

**GENETICS**
- Personality is inborn and development is determined by genetics and biology.
- Personality is inherited.

**ENVIRONMENT**
- Development and personality is determined by experiences.
- Personality is learned.

For years scientists have debated this hot topic. Most agree that they are equally influential in determining behavior and development.
Why Are Families Important To Child Development?

- To belong to a family is a basic human need
- Source where children gain practical knowledge about life
- Gain values or a sense of what is important
- Major influence on personality and development
Types of Families

- Nuclear
- Single Parent
- Extended
- Blended
- Multi-cultural
- Adoptive/Foster
Nuclear Family

- Also called a traditional family.
- Consists of a mom, dad, and one or more of their biological children.
Single Parent Family

- Consists of a mom OR dad and one or more of their children.
- Causes: divorced, widowed, armed forces, or had child out of wedlock
Extended Family

- Includes all the relatives in a family—aunts, uncles, grandparents, cousins, etc.
Blended Family

- A family that has children from former marriages (step-parents, step-siblings, half-siblings, etc.)

- Yours, Mine, & Ours
Multicultural Family

- A family of ethnic diversity, biological or adoptive
Adoptive/Foster Family

- A family with one or more adopted or foster children
- Foster: Takes care of a child temporarily, for long or short periods of time. Children are placed when their birth parents cannot care for them due to illness or other family crisis.
Can you identify the different family types?

- Traditional
- Extended
- Blended
- Adoptive
- Multicultural
Birth Order

× OLDEST Child
  × “The Achiever“
  × programmed for excellence and achievement, independent

× MIDDLE Child
  × “The Peacemaker“
  × raised to be understanding and diplomatic, less attention

× YOUNGEST Child
  × “The Life of the Party“
  × More dependent, typically funny/extrovert, struggles to stand out

** While these are typically true, there are ALWAYS exceptions **