

## CHAPTER IV.

### Child rearing

**Equal Opportunities** – Close Period - Homosexuality – Maintaining Rules – Learning Experiences – Repetition - Playschool – Growth Patterns – Competition - Consumer Society – Child Welfare – Mental Stimulation – Cognitive Interaction – Motor Responses – Rewards – Learned Tasks.

Equal opportunities works on the shop floor and in offices. Sex is no longer the limiting factor it once was. All vacancies must be open to all if the education and previous training fits the job description.

Mothers are given the opportunity to return to work within a certain period – the job is kept open and payment made during time off. The close period for the child – considered by psychologists to be that time before full-time education, is now farmed out to childcare agencies and kindergarten. This reduces the child/mother bonding period, home socialization, and the first stages of language, intimacy, and closeness.

The part parents play in this century is one of sharing, so that each can focus on their own work and interests. Young children are organized to fit in. There is a general feeling that this variety and flexibility is helpful to the child, giving a more rounded view of life. Common sense tells us that this is not so. Children need security, a sense of belonging and routine... and the longer this can be offered the better. Learning experiences are improved/internalized by self-discovery... repetition/rote thereafter cements the event or occasion.

### Homosexuality

In the past, it was thought that because women had a strong attachment to children - through maternal instincts, boys who had too much female involvement/contact would develop homosexual instincts.

This is not so, a person's sexuality is driven by desire – 'a mental process', and, where the person develops that desire – 'their environment'.

As it is unclear exactly what makes one person male and the other female. Genitalia are the simplest form of identification; however, it is hormone levels, and gene regulation, which are the true factors... Environment allows opportunity, encouragement, and acceptance.

Parents are conditioned when we are told before, or just after birth, the gender of our child. They then clothe, refer, educate and socialize, the child, to that belief... never once giving a moment's thought that this might not be true... The child, youth, or adult, goes along with that idea not knowing any different.

At some stage the individual will question that assumption, some imagining, or liking to think they are being 'with it'... then becoming depressed and oppressed by developing thoughts until accepting the tendency. It is up to the individual to do what they are most happy with doing as long as they are not hurting anyone else or endangering their own mental or physical wellbeing. Gradually, by personal acceptance of their libido, the person becomes more comfortable. Whether straight or gay we all have to do that.

### Maintaining rules

Do not expect others to take over your job and put right your deficiencies. Thankfully, we have the means to find out about most things easily and simply. Never compare your child detrimentally to another. Never say they are not wanted, and certainly, not ever wanted. Do not be violent, shout, or deny them food... but give them space, a kindly word, and the company of others. If you are firm, right from birth - maintaining simple social rules and correct behaviour patterns, it will set the correct tone for a sound and happier later life.

The first set of rules are laid down as early as possible in the baby's life - in the close period; they are to do with times for: waking, feeding, burping, cuddling, nappy changing, bathing, settling down, being in the fresh air, enjoying the motion of the pram, sleeping etc... these quite structured rules - to do with everyday habits, will transfer - to more social rules involving: singing, reciting, playing music, reading, language, play-sharing, etc., these social skills follow on through the rest of the child's life - to adulthood - to form a regimen for life... to ensure: correct: bodily function, social behaviour, and mental exercise.

It's a lot easier maintaining your rules from the start rather than effect change later on. Try to make your home a haven of calm; you do not have to shout to be heard. The most important action you can show your child is that you care about everything they do. By this positive action, the child will have a regard for you and show you respect. Try to be a paragon of virtue and your child will love you for it. Make your language and facial expressions positive - praising, congratulating, smiling, clapping, and raising a cheer. If your child misbehaves, it is generally because they have seen someone else do it, distract the child from errors, and seek to extract from the child the correct behaviour, at every occasion, by outlining preferred options.

## **Playschool**

Schools for babies and toddlers are a feature of today's society... sometimes used as a 'baby minder' for the working mother. Parents believe that such institutions provide socialization and learning - teach the child how to relate with its peers; give a head start in learning the 3Rs, and provide an arena for simple inculcating everyday skills.

There is absolutely no doubt that such places can advance scholastic and instructional skills. Children are competitive; they can be aggressive and frequently unkind. However closely guarded, superintended, and controlled, these human characteristics are exhibited daily... and do affect others.

It is not always evident that these characteristics are exhibited or have adverse effects. That they do is well known... and not obvious to the parent until much later... usually when it is too late.

## **Psychomotor Responses**

A mother's maternal function in pregnancy is an important director of early fetal brain development. This is an important period of brain development of the offspring. The adage 'you are what you eat' is a significant factor in healthy living. This is even more important when pregnant. A good healthy mixed diet is essential if a fetus is to have the best start in life. There are a number of studies that have shown that a mother's thyroid function during early gestation is connected to impaired fetal brain development. Make sure your baby gets the best treatment from you.

## **A child's growth pattern**

1. What a caring parent wants is a child born physically and mentally well – appearing and functioning normally at birth, according to prescribed norms – this includes suckling, movement and crying.
2. Within days, parents look carefully for movement in all limbs, and soon after, sensory responses. Once again the search is for natural responses something all mothers are attuned with.
3. Crying - turns to other sounds, attempts at recognizable sounds, language... attention seeking.
4. From birth, socialization is carried forward by the mother – responding, talking, touching, recognition, smell and sound.
5. Sitting up, crawling, bottom-shuffling... drinking from a beaker, self-feeding... assisted standing... then unassisted... finally climbing and walking. Scribbling, recognizing colours, filling in shapes, building structures.
6. Recognisable sounds turn into copying the mother - repetition of familiar single syllable words – singing nursery tunes/lullabies, numbers... repeating the alphabet as a song... handing and fetching, pointing, identifying nominated/named items. Gradually words are joined and talking begins. Playing games that require counting, sharing out items, allotting familiar toys.
7. Starting to wash and dress. Repeating common sentences about eating, the weather, going for a walk, the countryside, going to bed. Asking questions, eliciting answers. Engaging in conversation.
8. First attempts at reading – pointing... following the formed words, breaking down words into sounds, forming the mouth – making the sound.
9. Unassisted reading and copy-writing.
10. Adding, subtraction, dividing and multiplication.

## **Consumer Society**

Women now work full-time, except for brief periods – final weeks of child bearing, giving birth, weaning, and the close period – up to kindergarten or Introductory Class, until retirement. The additional wealth has altered their position in society, changed the pattern of home life, and altered social class structures and realigned women's role and status in society.

## **Child Welfare**

If a couple, or single person, decides to have a baby and cannot afford to look after it they are being irresponsible. Welfare payments should not be offered to any person who declares they want, desire, need or deserve a child. Society should only allot facilities to those parents who have demonstrated they are settled, are mature, have, or will have, the necessary finances to maintain a child...

Any person who gives birth to a child who cannot be maintained should have their parents fined or a charge placed on their property - sufficient to pay for maintenance.