HISTORY OF SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY

Created by EDS 245 Fall, 2003

What were the factors that led to field of school psychology?
- Development of IQ tests – Binet
- Compulsory schooling
  - Psychological and medical inspections
  - All children attending school
  - Need for differentiating between kids
  - Desire to sort kids out
- Wanting to improve condition of children’s lives
- Labor laws that moved children out of the work force
- Looking to children as the future
- Realizing that children had rights
- Growth of clinical school psychology
- Different educational approaches
- Industrial revolution

How did it begin?
- Gatekeeper role
- Lightner Witmer clinic
- Roots in both clinical and educational
- Arnold Gesell (first school psychologist)
- 1890-1900
- G. Stanley Hall
  - More research oriented approach

How have changing societal forces changed school psychology?
- Idea that kids with disabilities have rights
- Great Society
- Early on – response to immigration and urban situations
- Expectation that educators will address the whole child
- Increases in numbers of kids in education
- NCLB; focus on accountability
- Civil rights movement
- Focus on violence
- WWI
  - Relevance of tests
- WWII
  - Therapeutic interventions
- IDEA - mainstreaming

What are four “main events” in the history of school psychology?
These are the events identified by different groups.
- Binet IQ
94-142
IDEA
NASP separation as professional field (separate from APA)
ADA
Gesell as school psychologist
Recognized by APA
Industrial revolution
WWI – standardized testing
Boulder conference
Compulsory schooling
Witmer’s clinic
Larry P. vs. Riles

Who are important names to know?

Added by Cathi
- Gesell
- Goddard
- Hildreth
- Wallin
- Witmer
- Wooley?
- Washburn?

Current identity?

An open question