Moral Development

I. Introduction

What is Moral development? What does a “morally mature” child look like?

II. Developmental Course Moral development

A. Moral Behavior
   1. Early Self-control
   2. Prosocial behavior

B. Reasoning
   1. Social-conventional vs. moral rules (Turiel)
   2. Reasoning about fairness/distribution (Damon) vs. transgressions vs. prosocial behavior
   3. Are moral actions related to reasoning?

C. Moral emotions
   • Role of guilt, empathy, sympathy
   • Fearful temperament

III. Theories of Moral Reasoning

A. Piaget
   • Heteronomous and autonomous morality and rule orientation

B. Kohlberg – extension of Piaget’s ideas
   • Level one - preconventional - morality is externally controlled
   • Level two - conventional - focus on maintaining social system, conformity to social rules
   • Level three - postconventional morality defined in terms of abstract principles, values
     1. Support for Stages:
     2. Criticisms

C. Current issues
   • Is moral reasoning universal? Do cultural values play a role? In what way?

Gender and Sex-role Development

I. Introduction

A. What is Sex-role development?
B. Developmental progression

II. Sex differences

A. Psychological sex differences and cautions
B. Origins of sex differences? (Maccoby)

III. Theoretical approaches to sex-role development:

A. Biological explanations
B. Psychological explanations
   1. Psychoanalytic - focus on emotion and identification
   2. Behaviorist/ Social Learning Theory (Bandura) - focus on sex-typed behavior
   3. Cognitive-developmental (Kohlberg) - focus on knowledge/gender constancy
   4. Social cognitive

Student presentation