Families Count

This book is concerned with the question of how families matter in young people’s development – a question of obvious interest and importance to a wide range of readers and a question with serious policy implications. A series of topics concerning families is examined by the top international scholars in the field, including the key risks affecting children; individual differences in children’s resilience; links between families and children’s peers; the connections between parental work and children’s family lives; the impact of child care, divorce, and parental separation; grandparents; and new family forms such as lesbian- and surrogate-mother families. The latest research findings are brought together with discussion of policy issues raised.

Alison Clarke-Stewart is a psychologist whose work focuses on the effects of social environments on children’s cognitive and emotional development. Since receiving her Ph.D. from Yale University in 1972, she has studied family interactions, child care, divorce and custody, and children’s eyewitness testimony. She is currently a professor in the Department of Psychology and Social Behavior and Associate Dean for Research in the School of Social Ecology, University of California, Irvine. She is a Fellow of the American Psychological Association and the American Psychological Society, a member of the Society for Research in Child Development, and a Principal Investigator in the NICHD Study of Early Child Care and Youth Development. She has been a visiting scholar at the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences and at Wolfson College, Oxford University. She has written more than 100 articles for scholarly journals such as Child Development and the American Psychologist, and her recent books include What We Know about Childcare (2005) and Divorce: Causes and Consequences (2006).

Judy Dunn is a psychologist whose research is focused on children’s social, emotional, and communicative development. She has studied children’s family relationships (she pioneered research on siblings) and friendships, stepfamilies, and children’s understanding of other people, with a particular interest in longitudinal naturalistic observation approaches. She began her research at Cambridge University, spent eight years in the United States, and is currently a professor at the Institute of Psychiatry in London. She is a Fellow of the British Academy and of the Academy of Medical Sciences. She has received the Society for Research in Child Development's Award for Distinguished Scientific Contribution and the American Psychological Association's G. Stanley Hall Award. She has been a visiting scholar at the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences at Stanford University, the Van Leer Foundation in Jerusalem, and universities in Italy. She has written scholarly articles and books, including Children’s Friendships: The Beginnings of Intimacy (2004).
The Jacobs Foundation Series on Adolescence

Series Editor: Dieter Wolke

The Jacobs Foundation Series on Adolescence addresses the question of what can be done to promote healthy development around the world. The series views this important question from different disciplines in the social sciences. Economists and sociologists may consider how we can promote human capital over time, specifically, an individual’s ability to become educated and to develop earning power; demographers and sociologists may analyze development patterns over generations; psychiatrists and psychologists may tackle the problem of how much change is possible in psychological health during the life course and over generations. Drawing from these different domains of inquiry into human development, the Jacobs Foundation Series on Adolescence examines the potential for change across generations and during the life course in three areas: (1) human capital, (2) partnership behavior, and (3) psychological health and the rearing of children. The purpose of the series is to further the goals of the Jacobs Foundation – to contribute to the welfare and social productivity of the current and future generations of young people.

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Contents

List of Contributors  ix

Introduction  1

PART ONE. RISK AND RESILIENCE

   Ann S. Masten and Anne Shaffer

2. The Promotion of Resilience in the Face of Adversity  26
   Michael Rutter

3. Identifying Risk and Protective Factors for Healthy Child Development  53
   Arnold Sameroff

PART TWO. PEERS AND PARENTS

4. The Influence of Family and Peer Relationships in the Development of Competence during Adolescence  79
   W. Andrew Collins and Glenn I. Roisman

5. Toward a Dynamic Developmental Model of the Role of Parents and Peers in Early Onset Substance Use  104
   Kenneth A. Dodge, Patrick S. Malone, Jennifer E. Lansford, Shari Miller-Johnson, Gregory S. Pettit, and John E. Bates

PART THREE. WORK AND FAMILY

6. Mothers and Fathers at Work: Implications for Families and Children  135
   Ann C. Crouter

7. The Family-Child-Care Mesosystem  155
   Kathleen McCartney
PART FOUR. DISCORD AND DIVORCE

8. Marital Discord, Divorce, and Children’s Well-Being: Results from a 20-Year Longitudinal Study of Two Generations
   Paul R. Amato
   179

9. The Influence of Conflict, Marital Problem Solving and Parenting on Children’s Adjustment in Nondivorced, Divorced and Remarried Families
   E. Mavis Hetherington
   203

10. Adolescents’ Development in High-Conflict and Separated Families: Evidence from a German Longitudinal Study
    Sabine Walper and Katharina Beckh
    238

PART FIVE. NEW AND EXTENDED FAMILY FORMS

11. New Family Forms
    Susan Golombok
    273

12. Grandparents, Grandchildren, and Family Change in Contemporary Britain
    Judy Dunn, Emma Fergusson, and Barbara Maughan
    299

PART SIX. CONCLUSIONS AND COMMENTARIES

    Alison Clarke-Stewart
    321

    Jacqueline J. Goodnow
    337

15. Prognosis: Policy and Process
    Robert A. Hinde
    361

Index

371
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