

Child's Play





Bonobo adult plays with an infant



So far, most scientists think that one big difference between man and non-human primates is that humans actively teach behavior to their offspring, while juvenile primates learn from observation.



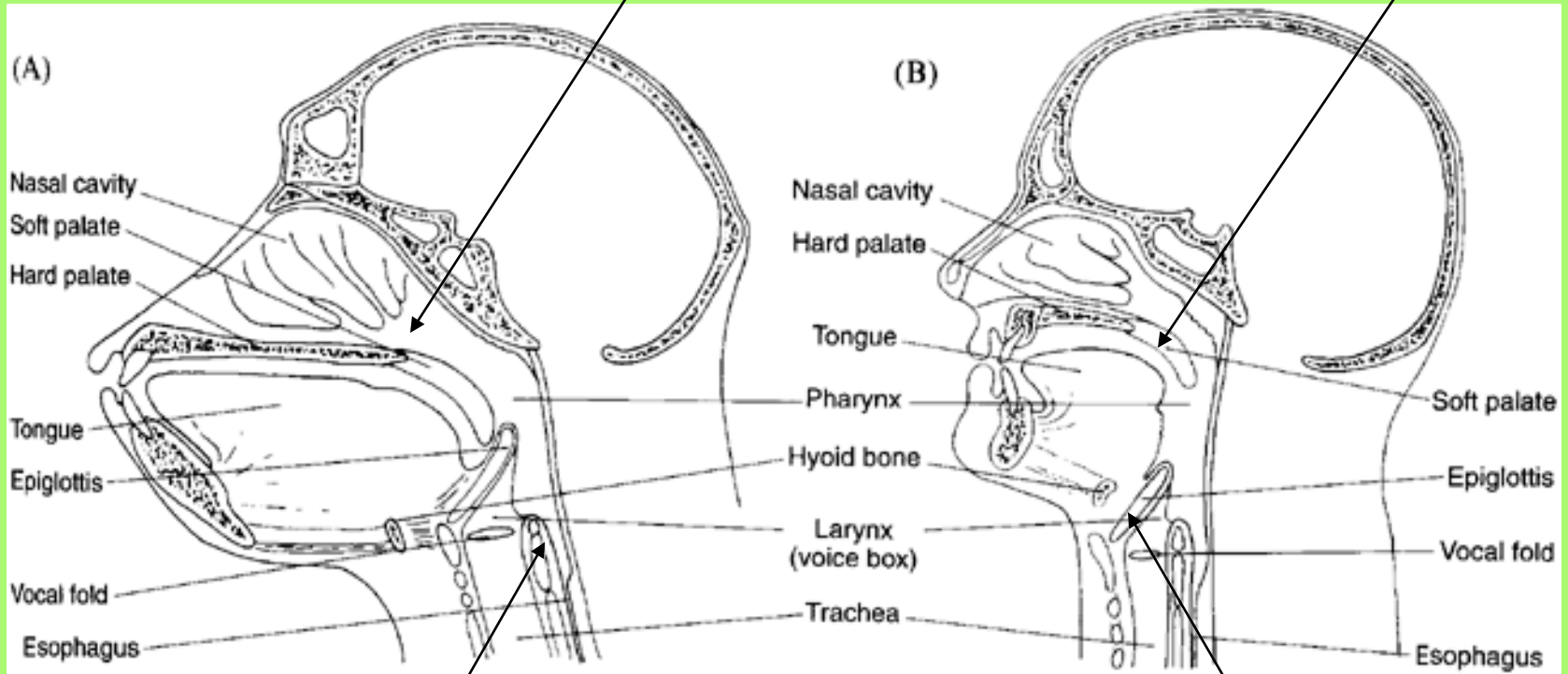
Termite fishing



Dr. Savage-Rumbaugh and Kanzi

Soft Palate

Soft Palate



Larynx

Larynx



All human languages share three basic features:

- Productivity – They can be used to create new messages.
- Displacement – They can be used to send messages without direct sensory contact.
- Arbitrariness – There is seldom a connection between the symbols that humans use and the events and properties they represent.



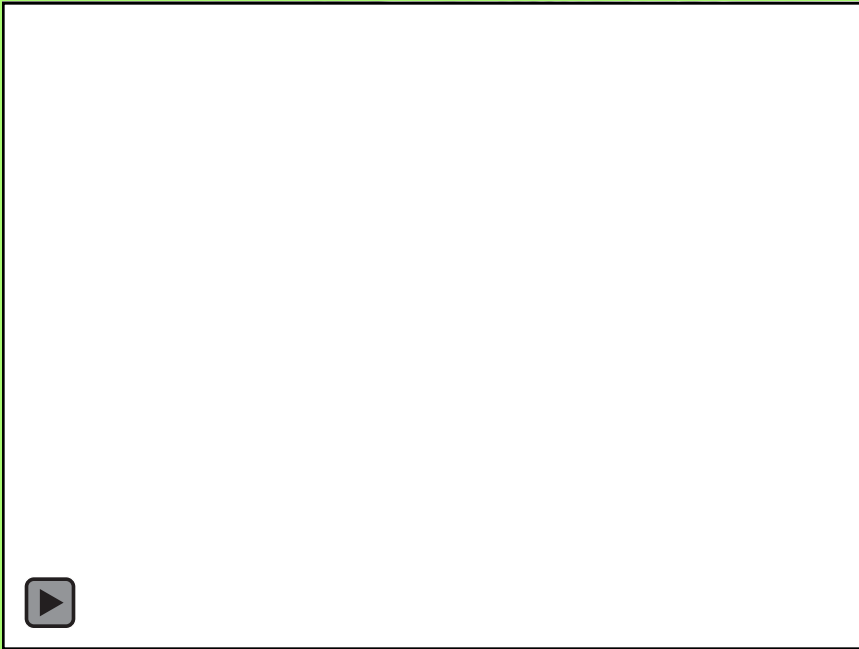
Learning from
Observation vs. Being
Taught



Since parents, at least subconsciously, realize that the acquisition of culture is their offspring's most important survival tool, it is not surprising that in many cultures parents invest a lot of time in language development.



Even from an early age, parents teach their infants about the specific culture they have been born to through speech.



Physical Development





Sometimes the cultural expectation is that children will learn physical skills as part of play.



Although we think of playing as a definitive aspect of childhood, some children are not allowed to play for a variety of reasons.



Nepalese Kumari
Chanira Bajracharya

Muammar Gaddafi meets nine year old king of the Toro in Uganda on the sixth anniversary of the king's reign



Mormon Children praying

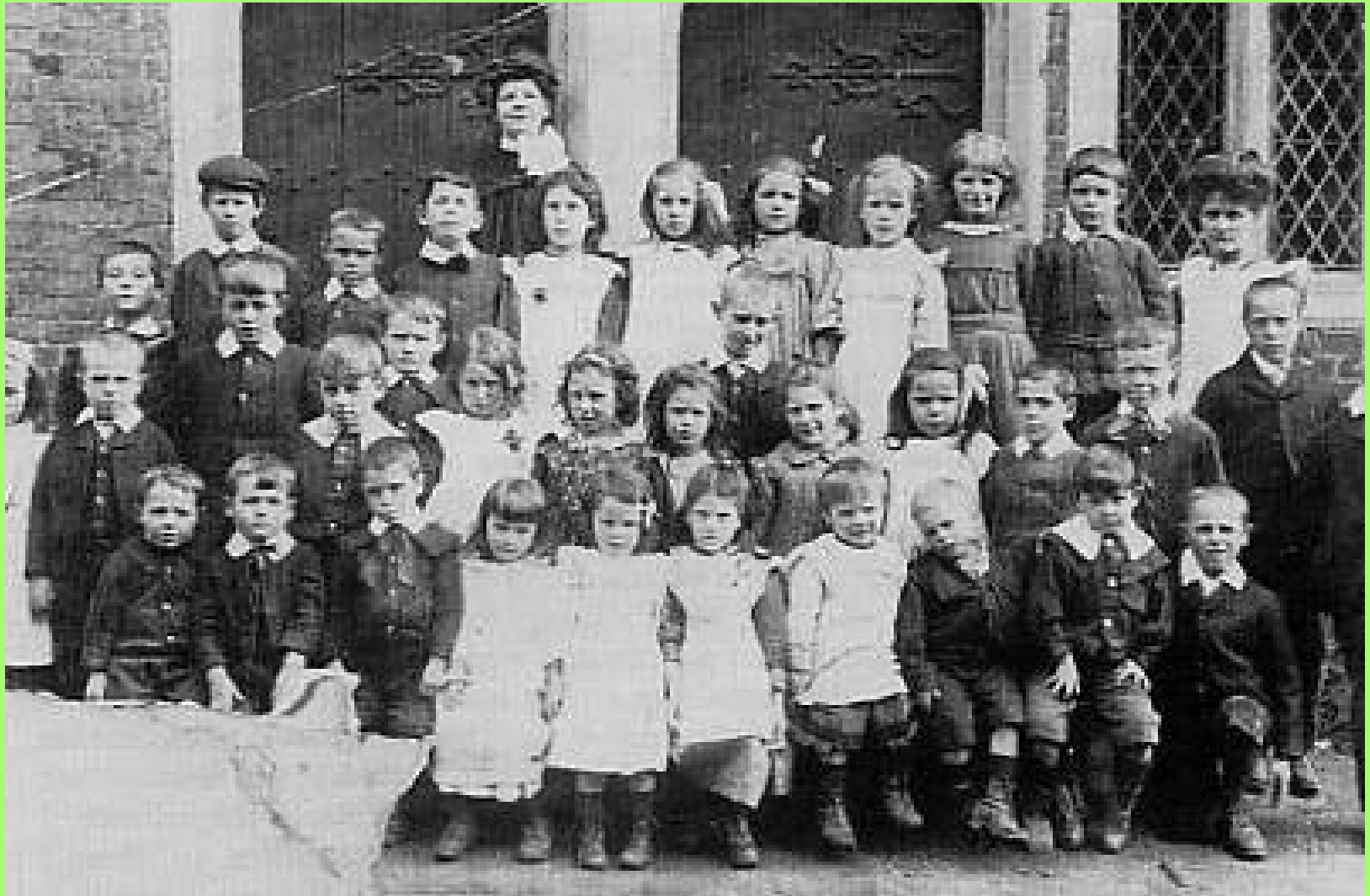


Infanta Margarita Teresa
de España



Children of Charles 1

A Changing Concept of Childhood



Children from a London Workhouse



Mayan children

The problem of working children is not a historical one, or limited to the west.



1907



Child laborer, Newberry, South Carolina,
1908



In 1833, the British government introduced the Factory Act specifying:

- No child workers under 9 years of age
- Employers must have a medical or age certificate for child workers
- Children between the ages of 9–13 to work no more than 9 hours a day
- Children between 13–18 to work no more than 12 hours a day
- Children are not to work at night
- Two hours schooling each day for children
- Four factory inspectors appointed to enforce the law throughout the whole of the country.



But, in the west, the idea that children were innately mischievous and in need of shaping and containment persisted.



A DISTINCTION

THE "GOOD PARSON" (to applicant for instruction in the Night School):
"Have you been confirmed, my boy?"

BOY (hesitating): "Please, sir—I—don't know."

PARSON: "You understand me; has the Bishop laid his hands on you?"

BOY: "Oh, no, sir, but his Keeper have, sir—very often, sir!"



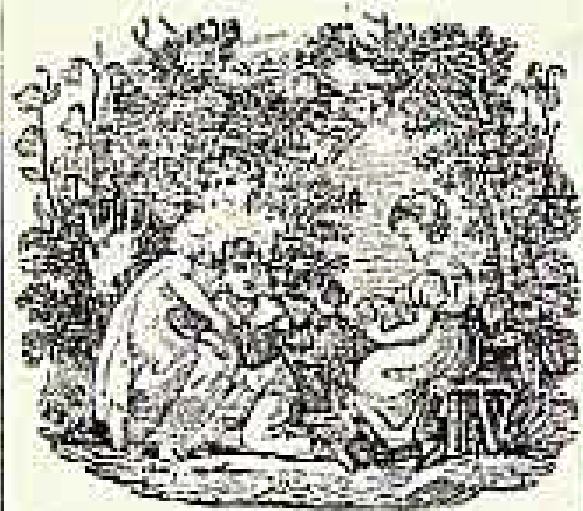
Mrs *Emmeline Pankhurst* (sixth from left) welcomes hunger strikers from prison,
September, 1909



Two girls wearing banners with slogan "ABOLISH CH[ILD] SLAVERY!!" in English and Yiddish, one carrying American flag; spectators stand nearby. Probably taken during May 1, 1909 labor parade in New York City.

[Eclectic School Series.]

THE
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 WITH PICTURES.



BY W. H. MCGUFFEY,
 PROFESSOR IN MIAMI UNIVERSITY, OXFORD.

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15

NEW SECOND READER.

LESSON IV.



eggs	each	watch	young	'pret'ty
days	moss	smile	month	mar'ble
back	three	might	ground	moth'er
trees	which	bright	thought	a-mong'

THE YOUNG BIRDS.

1. ONE day, Willy's moth'er told him that he might play a-mong the trees.
2. He soon came back, and ran to his moth'er with a bright smile.
3. "O moth'er," said he, "what do you think I have seen?"

With the advent of near universal schooling, children's lives became divided between periods of formal education and play.



Colorado County farm children, 1920



The Little Rascals





Shirley
Temple

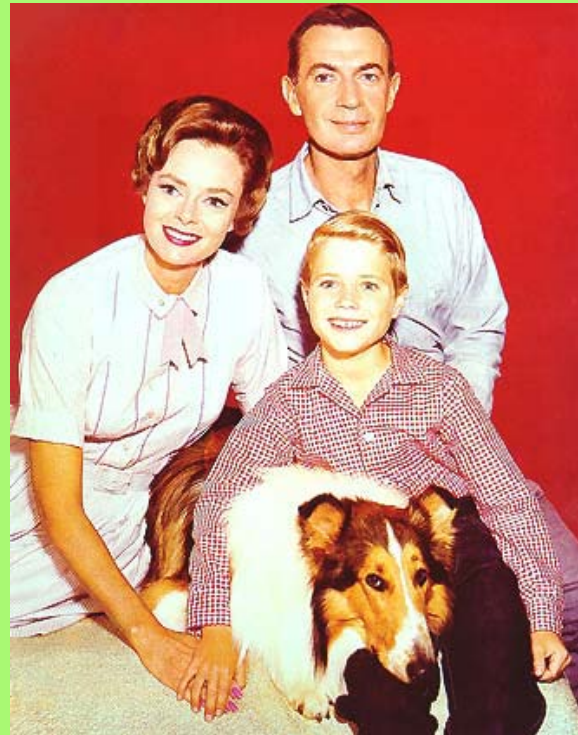


Father Knows Best

Leave It to Beaver



Howdy Doodie



The Donna Reed
Show

The 1958 Lassie Family



The Mickey Mouse Club





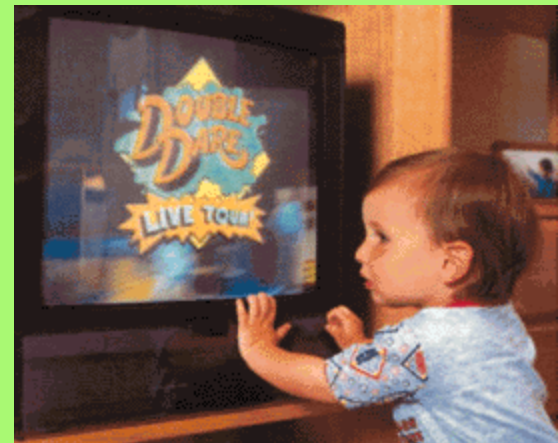
In 1968, Diahann Carroll broke new ground in the television portrayal of child-rearing in *Julia*.

Julia with Diahann Carroll





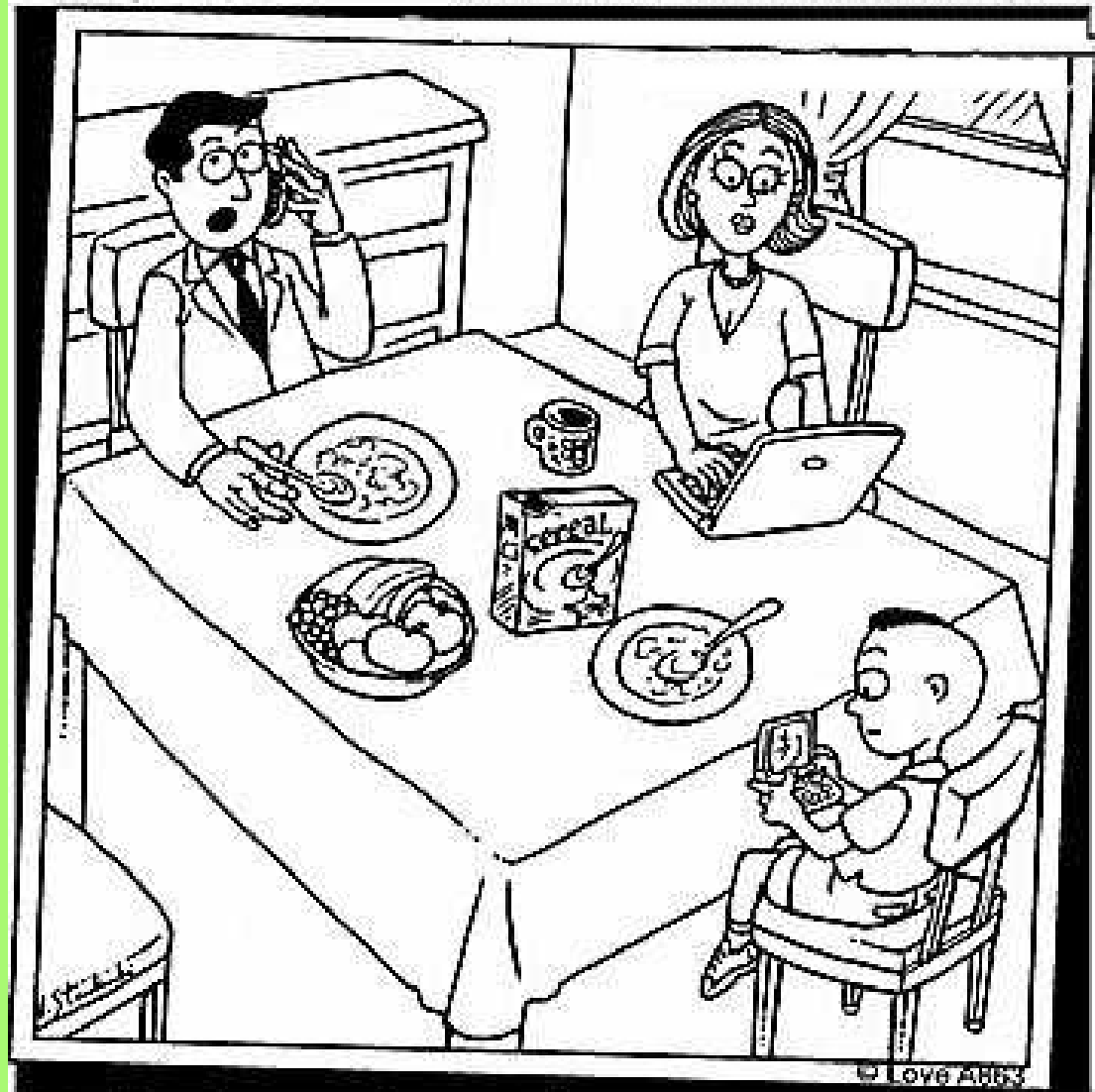
The proliferation of television programming and the increasing number of screens per household has meant that most children now watch television unsupervised.





Today, the biggest problem parents face is scheduling.

Snapshots



Technology continues to improve communication.



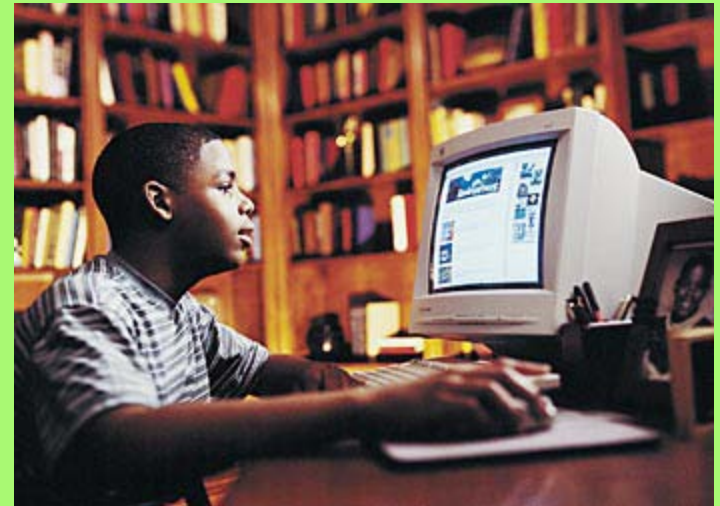
Interestingly, a Kaiser Family Foundation study found that children's grades are not affected by television and computer use, but they are negatively influenced by computer gaming.



Gaming addiction is becoming a cross-cultural problem.



“South Korea’s PC Bang Cafes”



Gamers in Manila



So, is it time to pull the plug on the television, quit your job, and dedicate everything to spending quality time with your offspring?





Hmong Children Playing

1. Who are the child-rearing authorities in our culture?
2. How does the state limit the authority of parents?
3. How do child-rearing strategies differ between ethnicities?
4. How do you think the state could contribute to improving child-rearing in the U.S.?
5. If there were no economic consequences, would you prefer to work or take care of your child?
6. What do you think about “stay-at-home” dads?