Socialization

Psychologists are more likely to emphasize various aspects of the individual's development. For developmental psychologists, socialization is largely a matter of cognitive development that typically is viewed as a combination of social influences and maturation. For behavioral psychologists, socialization is synonymous with learning patterns of behavior, primarily through environmental reinforcement or through vicarious processes such as modeling. For clinical psychologists, socialization is viewed as the establishment of personality traits, usually in the context of early childhood experiences. The subfield of child development is associated most closely with the topic of socialization within psychology, where much of the focus is on child rearing (see Socialization in Infancy and Childhood; Socialization in Adolescence;