



## Family- the Privileged Environment for the Child's Development

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### *1. Family- the Environment for the Protection and the Formation of the Child*

Family is considered the first environment, as well as the closest one to the child, in order to gain life experiences in their own rhythm of growing and developing. Through family, the child may establish a connection with the surrounding world, will exercise their senses, intelligence, convictions and attitudes, which will be polished within the extrafamilial social life.

The children's education is efficient when it is performed according to the law of activity and the law of harmony. Education is the help offered to children in order to develop everything that is considered „divine”. They insist upon the education of childhood, which is achieved in three steps: breastfeeding, early childhood and childhood during schooling. Love and protection stimulate the child's development within in his closest social environment. By playing, children develop themselves from a physical and psychological point of view, as they assure their personal activism and the harmony of their personalities.

The necessity of the early dialogue between child and adult within family- the natural, emotional and protective environment, which needs to correspond to the elementary requirements- will reach towards autonomy, as family is the unit within which the child grows and affirms his true self. The familial environment acts by its numeric structure, by its social position, degree of culture and the quality of

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their relation between its members, as its conditions the social maturity of the child. The child tends to turn to rebellion, discouragement, rage, vindication, the loss of self-confidence as a result of frustration from the relationships with parents or due to their specific childhood.

Family is considered for children “the problem of to be or not to be, by the manner in which one may find themselves positioned, by birth, within a group destined to assure the nourishment, the care, the security, the first educational experience”. The great responsibility of parents derives from this as they have to create proper circumstances for the growth, the socialization of children and as well as to cultivate the social and moral values of children, in order for the latter to become social and moral human beings.

The society militates for the parents’ untarnished morality, for the family’s solidarity towards the education and the socialization of children, affirming that “the ones grown without parental affection are not few times disabled (...) and the situation of abandoned children is much more complicated and more dangerous than the one of orphans”.

Through family, children transition from dependency to autonomy, they find self-meaning, they will guide themselves towards self-accomplishment by reaching the essence of human condition.

A child’s family and home form a small universe, a small “homeland” in which the child is born, is raised and experiences the first joys of life, in which they utter their first cooing and in which they feel protected and surrounded by love.

The evolution of family meets important structural modifications, concerning its dimension, as well as the values involved in its behavior. It takes place a process of reducing the family’s dimensions, not only by limiting the number of children from a couple, but also by the tendency of growing children used by a nuclear family (parents and their offspring).

Traditionally, the typical Romanian family involved extended familial relationships, as it was composed by numerous generations and relatives. The main characteristic of the enlarged family type was, on the one hand, the large number of members within the home, and on the other hand, the young couple’s decision to live together with their relatives.

This type of organization lasted especially in the south-eastern parts of the country, in which the familial relationships were identified with the so-called “homestead”, as it reunited many generations.

In its extended shape, the traditional family held an important role in aiding and supporting the child, who benefited from an appropriate care and can emotionally-affective environment, offered by parents or by other relatives.

Another factor that has a positive impact towards the members of the traditional family was the one connected to the individuals’ solidarity from within the same familial group. This assures increased protection for children, but also for the disabled, the sick and the elders.

Within the traditional family, the child is involved in direct emotional relationships not only with parents, but also with others: relatives, neighbors, friends.

Thus, the child develops his altruism, his team and group spirit, as he internalizes a set of prosocial values at a behavioral level. The child becomes capable of selecting from his infancy responsibilities directly connected to homestead-related activities.

In its first years of life, children depend entirely on parents and on the familial group, from which they gain the main motivation and skills necessary for the future adulthood, that later will help them fit in the society to which they belong.

Subsequently, any life experience, any emotional or behavioral reaction shall be felt according to the context offered by the family.

In this respect, the familial attachment has a fundamental role in the formation of the future adult, who is sociable and ready to cope with difficult life experiences.

Inside a well-balanced family, in which exists mutual respect, the child is placed within the center. The child’s apparition within a family, especially the first child’s, is considered an important event that modifies the relation between the two spouses.

From this moment on, parents organize the time spent working in order to grow and to protect their offspring.

The loss of a parent or of both of them during childhood, as well as conflicts between spouses, constitute a severe psychological trauma, which may hold multiple implications over the child’s mental development.

When a child is institutionalized as a result of the death of his parents, their divorce or as a result of any other reasons that determined the eventual separation, it is

agreed that he suffered great difficulties while trying to adapt himself to the new circumstances.

Wherever the child may be, within a family or inside an institution, he needs someone to love him, to care for him, to educate him because our future, as family community, nation, depends on the manner in which he is prepared and educated.

## **2. The Family-Child Relationship. The Family's Climate**

Inside the family, there is shaped a characteristic life-style which is based on connections (biological, judicial, moral, educational, so on, so forth). This life-style generates a climate which reflects the family members' ideas about life and it is determined by the manner in which the matrimony, the quality of paternity conditions, of matrimonial roles, the degree of culture and spiritual affiliation, the attitude towards the children's education, the relationships established within and between different generations, the financial situation were accomplished.

The family's climate, when is coherent, balanced and secured, satisfies the needs of security, love, affirmation, belonging and prestige. Some events perceived as stressful, misunderstandings, failures, illnesses put to test the unity, the balance and the harmony of family life, but the resources concerning cohesion, that spring from the overall quality of interpersonal relationships, allow us to overcome stalemate situations (ones that can be considered "dismantling crises") and to reestablish the balance and the harmony within family life.

Extreme situations of misunderstanding and conflict may lead to the dissolution of the family and to experience the trauma of separation, which affects each member, especially children.

Family is the closest and the most adequate environment for intellectual, emotional and volitive construction for children's personality, as the familial climate becomes the frame of material, spiritual and moral ambiance, in which offspring will form themselves.

This is why financial and spiritual deficiencies present in the family's environment negatively influence children's development, either psychological, behavioral or social, mainly when these deficiencies generate a setting affected and even aggravated by tension and conflict.

## References

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