

MIDDLE CHILDHOOD

PSYCHOSOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

ATTEMPTS TO MEASURE PERSONALITY

Children's Apperception Test

Leopold Bellak, M.D. & Sonya Sorel Bellak

Based on

Thematic Apperception Test

Henry Murray, M.D.

- What is going on in the picture?
- What happened before this?
- What are the characters thinking and feeling?
- What is the outcome?



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OBJECTIVE (NORMATIVE) PERSONALITY ASSESSMENT

Structured Pediatric Psychosocial Interview


SPPI

Thomas E. Webb, Ph.D.


Chris A. Van Devere, M.D.

When a child speaks, how do you listen? How do you determine if the child needs help? The SPPI is a technique for systematically sampling children's expressions of life concerns and affective distress.


Traits Evaluated With SPPI

- **Fretfulness** – tendency to worry about interpersonal relationships in general, especially regarding incohesion in the family.
 - **Adherence** – attachment to the family.
 - **Emulation** – competitiveness with siblings and peers to achieve recognition.
 - **Doubtfulness** – uncertainties about intellectual competence.
 - **Impetuosity** – easily aroused, impulsive motoric restlessness.
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Traits Evaluated With SPPI

- **Obdurateness** – tendency to avoid talking about conflictual stresses, preferring to communicate through nonverbal, oppositional behavior.
 - **Composure** – restraint of emotional demonstrativeness. Proness toward mood lability and accentuated responses to frustration.
 - **Unhappiness** – moodiness, dysphoria, unusual sensitivity to social interaction.
 - **Resentfulness** – oppositional behaviors, self-defeating, self-destructive behavior related to perceived injustice.
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The Professor's SPPI Research Findings

- Ten year study of 409 children and adolescents between the ages of 5 and 19
 - 69% were living in intact families (with biological parents)
 - No significant differences in mean scores on various scales among boys, girls, children, adolescents, inpatients, or outpatients
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The Professor's SPPI Research Findings

Typical child/adolescent client is

- just sliding by in school despite having above average confidence in academic ability
- emotionally detached from their family
- lacking in composure (tends to overreact to everything)

Most Common Diagnosis

- Oppositional Defiant Disorder (313.81)

KOHLBERG'S STAGES OF MORAL REASONING

Kohlberg's stages of moral reasoning correspond to Piaget's stages of cognitive development

Level I - Preconventional = Preoperational

Level II - Conventional = Concrete operations

Level III - Postconventional = Formal operations



table 12.2

Kohlberg's Three Levels and Six Stages of Moral Reasoning

Level I: Preconventional Moral Reasoning

Emphasis is placed on getting rewards and avoiding punishments; this is a self-centered level.

- *Stage One: Might makes right* (a punishment and obedience orientation). The most important value is obedience to authority, so as to avoid punishment while still advancing self-interest.
- *Stage Two: Look out for number one* (an instrumental and relativist orientation). Each person tries to take care of his or her own needs. The reason to be nice to other people is so that they will be nice to you.

Level II: Conventional Moral Reasoning

Emphasis is placed on social rules; this is a community-centered level.

- *Stage Three: "Good girl" and "nice boy."* Proper behavior is now behavior that pleases other people. Social approval is more important than any specific reward.
- *Stage Four: "Law and order."* Proper behavior means being a dutiful citizen and obeying the laws set down by society.

Level III: Postconventional Moral Reasoning

Emphasis is now on moral principles; this level is centered on ideals.

- *Stage Five: Social contract.* One should obey the rules of society because they exist for the benefit of all and are established by mutual agreement. If the rules become destructive, however, or if one party doesn't live up to the agreement, the contract is no longer binding.
- *Stage Six: Universal ethical principles.* General universal principles, and not individual situations or community practices, determine right and wrong. Ethical values (such as "Life is sacred") are established by individual reflection and may contradict the egocentric or legal values of earlier stages.

STAGES OF MORAL REASONING

Progressive Stages vs. A Loop

