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CHILDREN'S FANTASY PLAY AS RELATED TO PARENTS' AND  
CHILDREN'S PERCEPTIONS OF PARENTAL CAREGIVING BEHAVIORS  
AND CHILDREN'S PSYCHO-SOCIAL ADJUSTMENT

By

Yanon Volcani

A THESIS

Submitted to  
Michigan State University  
in partial fulfillment of the requirements  
for the degree of

MASTER OF ARTS

Department of Psychology

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## ABSTRACT

### CHILDREN'S FANTASY PLAY AS RELATED TO PARENTS' AND CHILDREN'S PERCEPTIONS OF PARENTAL CAREGIVING BEHAVIORS AND CHILDREN'S PSYCHO-SOCIAL ADJUSTMENT

By

Yanon Volcani

The current investigation explored the relationship between children's fantasy play, parents' perceptions of their caregiving behaviors, the children's perceptions of their parents' caregiving behaviors, and the children's psycho-social adjustment. Ten Caucasian, latency aged (7-9 year old), "normal" boys, living in upper-middle class two-parent families, participated in the study. Fantasy play was elicited using the Lowenfeld World View Technique (Lowenfeld, 1939)--an instrument consisting of a small sandbox and numerous objects (i.e. miniature people, animals, buildings, vehicles) with which the child constructs a "World."

Each child made 3 Worlds over a one week period which were videotaped and later coded by 3 sets of raters using a scoring system developed by the current experimenter. Measures were made to assess dimensions of fantasy play that best discriminated high and low psycho-social functioning in children, these being: (1) Aggression (sub-categories: Devouring, Direct Physical, Distance Physical, Accident, Verbal, Social, Deprivation, Abandonment); (2)

Benevolence (subcategories: Physical, Verbal, Helping, Affiliative Acts, Satisfying Experiences); (3) Adequacy (Positive and Negative); (4) Assertion (Reactive and Initiated); (5) Construction; (6) Dominance; (7) Submission; (8) Dependence; (9) Propensity for Imaginative Play.

Parents' perceptions of their caregiving attitudes and practices were assessed using 2 self-report inventories, independently completed by each parent. Children's perceptions of their parents' caregiving behaviors were assessed using an orally administered inventory, while their psychosocial adjustment was measured by parents' and teachers' ratings of the children's functioning on several inventories.

Pearson product moment correlation coefficients yielded several interesting relationships between the dependent and independent measures. For example, there was a positive relationship between fathers' composite score of engaging in theoretically effective caregiving behaviors and fantasized Benevolence, and a negative relationship between mothers' Rejecting behaviors and Benevolence. Furthermore, children's perception of their fathers as being rejecting positively related to Dependency, while negatively related to Propensity for Imaginative Play. There were no strong, consistent relationships between children's fantasy play and parent/teacher ratings of their psychosocial adjustment. Examination of the relationship between parents' perceptions of their caregiving and their children's adjustment

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generally showed a positive association between high psychosocial functioning and caregiver behaviors characterized by acceptance, explicit limit setting, and the fostering of autonomy. Separate effects for paternal and maternal behaviors were found, with paternal as compared to maternal behaviors showing a stronger relationship to the children's adjustment.

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Gary Stollak, on our time together I have been deeply moved by your profound trust in the human spirit (a word I realize you probably would not use, though I hear it resonating in the eloquence with which you speak, like some grand double bass upon which the rest of the orchestra imperceptively floats). I have been even more moved by your courage and integrity to live-- in operationally specific ways-- the beliefs you cherish. Thus I have felt acknowledged, respected and trusted by you, freed to ride the waves I choose, with guidance and consultation as to which break might be best to try. Your wit and wisdom have delighted and inspired me. A rabbi in the truest sense of the word, through you I have expanded who I am. For this I thank you.

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I thank you Phyllis Watts for your warmth, sensitivity and playfulness. Your gentle guidance through the seemingly nefarious maze of

computers and SPSS was magical, oh good fairy. Our friendship has been a harbour and a home.

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Larry Messe, thank you for the 90.1-second phone consultations that saved hours of time.

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
CHILDREN'S FANTASY PLAY AS RELATED TO PARENTS' AND CHILDREN'S PERCEPTIONS OF PARENTAL CAREGIVING BEHAVIORS AND CHILDREN'S PSYCHO-SOCIAL ADJUSTMENT. .	1
INTRODUCTION . . . . .	1
Children's Psycho-social Adjustment . . . . .	5
Caregiver Behaviors and Children's Psycho-social Adjustment. . . . .	7
Children's Perceptions of Caregiver Behaviors and Their Psycho-social Adjustment . . . . .	13
The Nature and Function of Fantasy Play . . . . .	15
Caregiver Behaviors and Children's Fantasy Play. . . . .	20
Measurement of Children's Fantasy Play . . . . .	25
Summary. . . . .	30
Developmental Aspects of Children's Fantasy Play. . . . .	31
Cognitive Functioning. . . . .	31
Psychological Development. . . . .	32
Major Tasks and Concerns . . . . .	33
Defenses and Coping Strategies . . . . .	34
Dependent Measures . . . . .	35
Structure of the Children's Worlds . . . . .	35
Content of the Fantasy Play . . . . .	36
Aggression . . . . .	36
Benevolence. . . . .	37
Adequacy . . . . .	38
Assertion . . . . .	38
Construction . . . . .	39
Dominance . . . . .	39
Submission . . . . .	40
Dependence . . . . .	40
Expansion . . . . .	40
Propensity . . . . .	41
HYPOTHESES . . . . .	42

METHOD .

Statistical  
Analysis  
Procedures

RESULTS .

Analysis  
Index

Dependent

	Page
METHOD . . . . .	45
Subject Selection. . . . .	45
Sample Characteristics . . . . .	46
Procedure. . . . .	46
Independent Measures . . . . .	46
Children's Psycho-social Adjustment . . . . .	47
Parents' Perceptions of Their Caregiving Behaviors. . . . .	48
Children's Perceptions of Their Parents' Caregiving Behaviors . . . . .	49
Dependent Measures . . . . .	50
Scoring the Dependent Measures . . . . .	52
Procedure for Coding the Fantasy Play. . . . .	62
Reliability of the WVT Variables . . . . .	64
RESULTS . . . . .	68
Analysis of the Data . . . . .	68
Independent Measures . . . . .	68
Children's Psycho-social Adjustment . . . . .	68
Parents' Perception of Their Caregiving Behaviors and Children's Psycho-social Adjustment . . . . .	74
Children's Perceptions of Their Parents' Caregiving Behaviors . . . . .	78
Children's Perceptions of Their Parents' Caregiving Behaviors and the Children's Psycho-social Adjustment . . . . .	80
Dependent Measures . . . . .	83
Category Usage . . . . .	83
Changes Across the 3 WVT Sessions. . . . .	85
Inter-relationships Between Categories of Fantasy Behaviors . . . . .	90
Children's Fantasy Play and Their Psycho-social Adjustment. . . . .	95
Children's Fantasy Play and Parents' Perceptions of Their Caregiving Behaviors. . . . .	98
Children's Fantasy Play and Their Perceptions of Their Parents' Caregiving Behaviors. . . . .	102

DISCUSSION

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REFERENCES

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	Page
DISCUSSION . . . . .	105
Qualifications of Results. . . . .	105
Number of Subjects . . . . .	105
Characteristics of the Sample. . . . .	106
Reliability of Measures . . . . .	107
The World View Technique as a Means of Evoking Fantasy Play . . . . .	108
Relevance of Findings for Hypotheses . . . . .	111
Relevance to Past Theory and Research. . . . .	114
Implications for Caregiving Behaviors and Children's Psycho- social Adjustment . . . . .	114
Implications for Theories on The Nature and Function of Fantasy and Child Development . . . . .	116
Implications for Research Metho- dology and Directions for Future Research . . . . .	123
FOOTNOTES. . . . .	129
APPENDICES . . . . .	130
A: Letters to Parents and Teachers . . . . .	130
B: Parent Information Form . . . . .	132
C: Measures of Children's Psycho-social Adjustment . . . . .	133
D: Measures of Parents' Perceptions of Their Caregiving Attitudes and Behaviors . . . . .	153
E: Measures of Children's Perceptions of Their Parents' Caregiving Behaviors . . . . .	170
F: World View Coding Manual and Rating Forms. . . . .	173
G: Sample Characteristics . . . . .	188
H: T-values for Differences between World View Sessions . . . . .	189
I: Correlations between World View Categories and Factors of Positive/Negative Caregiving Behaviors on the CRCP . . . . .	190
J: Correlations between Aggression and Benevolence Subcategories and Parents' Perceptions of Their Caregiving Behaviors . . . . .	191
K: Caregiver Behaviors and Children's Psycho- social Adjustment: Toward a Synthesis of Piagetian and Humanistic Perspectives . . . . .	192

	Page
FOOTNOTES. . . . .	195
REFERENCES . . . . .	197

# Table

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# LIST OF TABLES

Table	Page
1. Inter-rater reliabilities across the 3 WVT sessions on dimensions assessed using frequency counts . . . . .	65
2. Inter-rater reliabilites across the 3 WVT sessions on dimensions assessed using rating scales . . . . .	66
3. Means, standard deviations, and ranges of fathers', mothers', and teachers', ratings of children's psycho-social adjustment . . . . .	69
4. Correlations between fathers', mothers' and teachers' ratings of children's psycho-social adjustment. . . . .	71
5. Means, standard deviations, and ranges of fathers' and mothers' perceptions of their caregiving behaviors . . . . .	75
6. Correlations between parents' perceptions of their caregiving behaviors and ratings of children's psycho-social adjustment . . . . .	76
7. Means, standard deviations, and ranges of children's perceptions of their parents' caregiving behaviors . . . . .	79
8. Correlations between children's perceptions of their parents' caregiving behaviors and ratings of children's psycho-social adjustment . . . . .	81
9. Means, standard deviations, and minimum-maximum occurrences of fantasy play categories . . . . .	84
10. Means, standard deviations, and minimum-maximum occurrences for categories across the 3 WVT sessions . . . . .	87



Table

11.

12.

13.

14.

15.

16.

17.

18.

19.

20.

21.

Table	Page.
11. Means, standard deviations, and minimum-maximum occurrences for the subcategories of Aggression and Benevolence. . . . .	88
12. Means, standard deviations, and minimum-maximum occurrences for objects used in the 3 WVT sessions . . . . .	89
13. Inter-correlations between categories of objects used . . . . .	91
14. Correlations among fantasy play categories . . . . .	92
15. Inter-correlations between Aggression and Benevolence subcategories. . . . .	94
16. Correlations between fantasy play categories and measures of psycho-social adjustment . . . . .	96
17. Correlations between Aggression and Benevolence subcategories and psycho-social adjustment. . . . .	97
18. Correlations between fantasy play categories and parents' perceptions of their caregiving behaviors . . . . .	99
19. Correlations between fantasy play categories and children's perceptions of their parents' caregiving behaviors . . . . .	103
20. Correlations between World View categories and factors of positive/negative caregiving behaviors on the CRCP. . . . .	190
21. Correlations between Aggression and Benevolence subcategories and parents' perceptions of their caregiving behaviors. . . . .	191

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CHILDREN'S FANTASY PLAY AS RELATED TO PARENTS' AND  
CHILDREN'S PERCEPTIONS OF PARENTAL CAREGIVING BEHAVIORS  
AND CHILDREN'S PSYCHO-SOCIAL ADJUSTMENT

INTRODUCTION

In the beginning . . . there was  
darkness and the earth was with-  
out form. And God said, 'Let  
there be light.' And there was  
light.

One of the few areas of confluence between the many  
divergent theories of psycho-emotional development in chil-  
dren is the assumption that the human infant first experi-  
ences the universe as an undifferentiated, holistic mass of  
conglomerated sensations with which s/he feels at one  
(Freud, 1953; Fenichel, 1945; Guntrip, 1969; Jung, 1956;  
Kernberg, 1976; Lewin, 1935; Mahler, 1975; Neuman, 1973;  
Piaget, 1937; Sullivan, 1953; Werner, 1948). These theories  
further agree that development out of this original sense of  
"primordial oceanic omnipotence" (Fenichel, 1945), complete  
"ego-centricism" (Piaget, 1962), or "uroboric unity" of at-  
oneness-with-the-universe (Neuman, 1973), involves a slow  
differentiation of self from world, wherein the attainment  
of language plays a key role.

Recent discoveries in physiological psychology char-  
acterize this transition in terms of the lateralization of

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brain hemispheres, with the child's newly developing syntactic, lineal, rational mode of cognitive functioning typically being localized in the left hemisphere, while the original non-syntactic, spacial-aesthetic, irrational mode of experiencing being delegated to the right hemisphere (Harnad, 1977; Ornstein, 1974; Whitaker, 1976). Here lies the contrast between analogic and analytic thought, the transformation from the analog system to the digital system.

This progression towards lineal thinking, with its objective, consensual nature, is a slow one. Thus the child does not fully have the capacity for abstract, deductive reasoning until after his/her first decade of life (Piaget, 1936; 1962). Before this time, and to varying degrees after the acquisition of analytic thought, the child perceives and formulates much of his/her experiencing of the internal/external world along the subjective dimensions of what Sample (1976) has called the "metaphoric mind." This is the world of prelogical, prerational, preconsensual perceptions, thoughts, and feelings, the quintessence of childhood experiencing. It is an ordering of the universe along "clusters" of inextricably interwoven sensations, affects, images, concepts, and memories, nonsequentially encoded in a holistic, unified, all-at-once fashion, immuned to the boundaries of time and linear logic (Lowenfeld, 1938; 1964; Bowyer, 1970).

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The language of this fusion of experiencing is the child's fantasy play. It is the bridge between the metaphoric and analytic mind; it is the very switch that initially turned on the light of consciousness in the vast, primordial darkness of unconscious experiencing. Thus any adequate understanding of children's perceptions, thoughts, feelings, struggles, concerns, and wonderings about their internal/external worlds is inseparable from a thorough understanding of their fantasy play.

Concomitantly, such an understanding of children's fantasy play necessitates an exacting analysis of other pertinent aspects of their life spaces. Most relevant here would appear to be the child's psycho-social development, reflected in his/her overt social behaviors, and the child's experiencing of his/her parents--figures deemed by both conventional and contemporary wisdom to be a crucial influence in the formation of the person. If this is indeed the case, it would furthermore seem imperative to glean a fuller understanding of the parents' own perceptions of their caregiving behaviors and how these relate to the child's fantasy play.

The current investigation thus explored the relationship between children's perceptions of their parent's caregiving behaviors, the parents' self perceptions of their caregiving behaviors, the children's psycho-social functioning, and various related dimensions of their fantasy play.



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In brief, this study examined five conceptually interrelating facets of the child's life space: (1) the parents' self-perceived caregiver behaviors and child's psycho-emotional development; (2) the child's perception of his parents' caregiving behaviors and his psycho-emotional development; (3) the parents' self-perceived caregiver behaviors and the child's fantasy play; (4) the child's perception of his parents' caregiver behaviors and his fantasy play; (5) the child's psycho-emotional development and his fantasy play.

Since a plethora of research--by no means conclusive--now exists on the relationship between child-rearing practices and children's psycho-social development (see Mussen, 1970), children's perceptions of their parents' behaviors and their psycho-social development (Bronfenbrenner, 1961; Goldin, 1969; Michaels, et al., 1977; Serot and Teevan, 1961; Schaefer, 1965), and children's social behaviors and their fantasy play (see reviews by Levin and Wardwell, 1962; Singer and Singer, 1976), the focus of the present investigation was on children's perceptions of their parents' caregiver behaviors, the parents' self-perception of their caregiving behaviors, and the children's fantasy play. Indeed, it is here that an auspicious hiatus exists in the literature. Yet the effects of caregiver attitudes and practices upon children cannot be adequately understood without a thorough exploration of the very language children most naturally use

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to communicate their experiencing of their worlds--their fantasy play.

It was toward the bridging of this gap and further exploring the tapestry of the child's inner world that the present study was aimed.

### Children's Psycho-social Adjustment

A pivotal construct in the present investigation is what is referred to as children's "psycho-social adjustment." This admittedly rather lofty phrase is intended to denote the broad domain of behaviors indicative of the child's ability to effectively, competently, and masterfully respond to and act upon various aspects of the internal/external environment--what traditionally has been termed "positive mental health." Clearly, the process of delineating such behaviors is fraught with the biases of cultural, social, and personal perceptions, values, and attitudes. Nonetheless, a number of psychological theorists have grappled with this specter of cultural-personal subjectivism in attempting to define trans-cultural criterias of healthy psychological functioning (e.g., Allport, 1960; Besell and Palomares, 1970; Jahoda, 1958; Lindemann, 1955; Maslow, 1962; Stollak, 1978; White, 1959).

Stollak (1978), for example, conceptualizes positive psychological functioning as involving the following areas:

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regard," which involves both accurate perception and positive valuing of one's experiencing; (2) the accumulation of a large repertoire of personal cognitive and emotional skills and capacities, characterized by such things as self-awareness and understanding, self-control, self-confidence, initiative, and an ability to reason and learn; (3) the accumulation of a large repertoire of interpersonal and social skills and capacities manifested by empathy and interpersonal awareness, understanding and acceptance of other's experiencing along with the ability to communicate such awareness, understanding, and acceptance; (4) the accumulation of skills involving mastery of body functions and somatic capacities and capabilities; (5) the accumulation of skills involving mastery of the environment and its objects. Thus "high psycho-social adjustment" refers to various degrees of competent functioning along these five dimensions. More globally it involves the ability to accurately perceive, evaluate, and effectively act upon the internal/external environment so as to maximize adaptation.

The degree of psycho-social adjustment of the children in the current investigation was determined by inventories filled out by the parents and teachers of the children, inventories which were intended to assess the relevant dimensions of psychological competence (see Appendix C).

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Caregiver Behaviors and Children's  
Psycho-social Adjustment

The human infant is born into the world with many constitutionally predisposed, idiosyncratic patterns of perceiving and responding to the environment. His/her unique ways of behaving strongly effect how others in turn behave towards him/her (Thomas, Chess, and Birch, 1968; Mahler, 1962). Thus dynamic, mutually influencing interactions between infant and caregiver occur from birth.

Jungian and Object Relations theories hypothesize that all facets of the early infant's environment are holistically experienced as "Mother." The warm sun on the infant's skin would be internalized as part of the intrapsychic constellation of the "good mother," while the experience of a wet, irritating diaper would be internalized as part of the "bad mother" constellation. Thus any number of situational factors, totally irrespective of the actual caregivers' behaviors, can effect the infant's experiencing of his/her caregivers (Guntrip, 1969; Jung, 1956; Kernberg, 1976; Mahler, 1976; Neuman, 1976). To quote Neuman, "A 'good' personal mother can become for her child a 'terrible' mother through the preponderance of negative transpersonal factors such as sickness or affliction" (Neuman, 1976, p. 73). In Piaget's (1962) terms, the primary, assimilated schemas that define the experience of "mother" are altered by factors that have nothing to do with the actual, personal mother.



Clearly the interactional effects between child and caregiver are immensely complex, with much of the variance in terms of the child's psycho-social adjustment being possibly attributed to factors having little directly to do with the parents' caregiving practices.

Yet it is just as apparent that caregiver behaviors do have a profound influence on children's psycho-emotional development. The literature is replete with studies attempting to discern the dimensions and directions of these effects (see Mussen, 1970). From the psychoanalytic perspective, parental behaviors would have a great influence on the severity of superego conflicts, whereby a stricter, more punitive approach would be internalized by the child as a harsher superego constellation, manifesting a more "global condemnation" of the self for its socially distonic impulses (Gould, 1972). For social learning theorists, parents play a key role as reinforcement agents and models for their children (Bandura, 1969; Dollard and Miller, 1950).

More important to the humanistic school of thought is the quality of the relationship between parent and child, whereby the parents, through behaviors that communicate empathy, genuineness, and unconditional positive regard for the child, create a psychologically safe environment that frees the child's motivation towards self-actualization (Axline, 1947; Maslow, 1962; Moustakas, 1959; Rogers, 1961; Stollak, 1978).

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The present research alligned itself with the psycho-philosophy of this latter school of thought, and thus studies will here be reviewed from this orientation.

A consistent trend in the multifarious research on child rearing attitudes, caregiver behaviors, and child psycho-social adjustment is the finding that warm, accepting parental behaviors, coupled with firm, clearly deliniated and explicated limit setting are positively associated with children's behaviors indicative of high psycho-social competence (Baumrind, 1967, 1971; Becker, 1964; Coopersmith, 1967; Hoffman, 1963; Liberman, et al., 1971; Mussen, 1970).

Baumrind (1967) and Baumrind and Black (1970), in studying parental behaviors related to three empirically determined patterns of socio-emotional behaviors in pre-school children, found that children who were rated as being highly explorative, mature, self-reliant, and socially responsible (Pattern I), had parents who in structured interview and observed parent-child interactions were found to be more loving, understanding, demanding, and controlling ("authoritative") as compared to the parents of children who were rated as more withdrawn, distrustful, "dysphoric and disaffiliated" (Pattern II). Pattern II children had parents who were less affectionate and more punitive, detached, and controlling ("authoritarian") than Pattern I parents. The parents of the children who were rated as immature, lacking in self-control and self-reliance (Pattern III), were found

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to be relatively warm though non-demanding and non-controlling, which Baumrind called "permissive." Stollak (1978) points out that these parents' behaviors are more accurately termed "submissive").

Similarly, Coopersmith (1967) found that junior high school children who showed high self esteem on subjective and behavioral indices, had mothers who were highly accepting of their children, clearly defined and enforced limits, while showing much flexibility within the prescribed limits.

Several studies by Hoffman (1963, 1970) are corroborative here. Studying the child rearing behaviors of parents whose children were described as being highly considerate of others, Hoffman found that these children's parents were warm, explanatory when disciplining, and pointed out the consequences of the child's behavior. In a later study, Hoffman (1970) delineated three styles of parental discipline--those characterized by physical punishment and threat ("Power Assertion"), those characterized by non-physical direct expression of anger and disapproval by means such as shaming and criticizing ("Love Withdrawal"), and those involving explanation and reasoning ("Induction"). High moral development in children was positively related to "Induction" discipline, low moral development was positively associated to "Power Assertion" discipline, while "Love Withdrawal" did not clearly fit any pattern of moral behavior.

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Parental discipline approaches that were divided along two orthogonal dimensions of "Warmth versus Hostility" and "Permissiveness versus Restrictiveness" were found by Becker (1964), in a comprehensive review of the consequences of different styles of parental discipline, to be related to psycho-social development in children. Children who displayed competent psycho-social adjustment had parents who were characterized as "permissive-warm," while children who displayed less effective, more dys-social behaviors had parents who were characterized as "permissive-hostile" or "restrictive-hostile." "Permissive-hostile" discipline approaches were associated with alloplastic aggressiveness in children, while "restrictive-hostile" discipline was related to autoplasic destructiveness.

Liberman, Stollak, and Denner (1971), investigating parent-child interactions in a playroom, found that children's behaviors reflecting positive emotional adjustment--including the child's awareness of self and others, mastery, and interpersonal skill--were positively related to parental behaviors in the playroom indicative of empathy, genuineness, and non-possessive warmth.

In studying the child-rearing antecedents of aggression and dependency in preschool children, Sears, et al. (1953) found a clear positive association between severity of maternal punitiveness for aggression and dependency and

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amount of overtly aggressive and dependent behaviors in boys, while the relation for girls was curvilinear. The authors speculated that girls identified more with their mothers and thus experienced the punishment as more severe, thereby inhibiting overt expression. They found that severe punishment inhibited general activity level, in the girls studied, however when this variable was partialled out, there was a sharp rise in both aggression and dependency in high punished girls.

Of still greater relevance to the present study are the findings of research specifically investigating parental self-perception of caregiving behaviors and children's psycho-social adjustment. These studies consistently indicate that parents' self-perceptions of their caregiving behaviors as being warm, loving, and accepting are positively related to high psycho-social adjustment in their children (Sears, et al., 1957; Yarrow, et al., 1968), while self-perceptions of punitive caregiving practices were associated with child maladjustment (Lefkowitz, Walder, and Eron, 1963; Sears, et al., 1957).

The above studies consistently point to the conclusion that parental behaviors characterized by warmth, acceptance, and clear delineation of limits positively influence high psycho-social adjustment in children. Thus it was predicted that high self ratings on these dimensions of caregiver behaviors by parents participating in the present

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research would be positively related to high psycho-social competence in their children, as measured by parent and teacher ratings.

Children's Perceptions of Caregiver Behaviors  
and Their Psycho-social Adjustment

As previously emphasized, much of children's experiencing of their parents might have little to do with their parents' actual behaviors. Not only might transpersonal experiences be incorporated into the internalized representation of the parent (Kernberg, 1976; Mahler, 1976; Neuman, 1976), but Freud (1924), Hartmann (1964), and others have speculated that much of the child's perception of his/her parents involves projections of his/her own feelings towards the parents. Clearly these feelings have some relationship to actual caregiver behaviors, though the psychoanalytic perspective speculates that Oedipal fear and hostilities would be projected onto the parents irrespective of how benevolent they may actually be (Freud, 1926; Fenichel, 1945). It is thus imperative to ascertain the child's perception of his/her parents' caregiver behaviors, independent of the parents' self-perceptions.

There is a growing body of research indicating that children's perceptions of their parents (Goldin, 1969; Schaefer, 1965; Serot and Teevan, 1961) and parents' perceptions of their own caregiver behaviors and other aspects of the child-parent relationship are related to child psycho-

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emotional adjustment (Fergusson, Partyka, and Lester, 1974; Michaels, Messe', and Stollak, 1977; Stollak, Meese', Michaels, and Ince, 1977).

Evidence of little correspondence between parents' self-perceptions and children's perceptions of their parents' caregiving behaviors, or parental inferences about their children's perceptions has been consistently found (Michaels, Messe', and Stollak, 1977; Serot and Teevan, 1961; Zuker, 1971).

Michaels, Messe', and Stollak (1977), for example, found systematic differences in parent-child perceptions, with children tending to view their parent's caregiving behaviors more positively (i.e. more "loving" and less "punishing") than the parents viewed themselves or expected their children to view them. Parents, however, were also perceived as more "demanding" than they perceived themselves to be or expected their children to perceive them.

A second part of the Michaels, et al. (1977) study found that children's perceptions of their parents as "loving" was positively related to adaptive behaviors in a playroom situation with a stranger. Unexpectedly, children's perceptions of their parents as punitive was also correlated with adaptive playroom behaviors, contradicting previous findings, wherein children's perceptions of their parents as punitive were positively associated with maladjustment (Anderson, 1940; Schaefer, 1965). This was explained by the

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authors as perhaps being due to the use of "normal" children in their study, these children having less inclination to deny the existence of the relatively few punitive behaviors that their parents might actually exhibit.

From the above studies it was presumed that children's perceptions of their parents as "warm" and "structuring" (along with other dimensions theoretically indicative of "effective" caregiver practices) would be positively related to high psycho-social adjustment in the present investigation.

#### The Nature and Function of Fantasy Play

In reviewing the myriad of theories on the nature and function of fantasy play, two broad distinctions become evident. Fantasy appears to serve as a defensive strategy to assuage fear and anxiety (Freud, 1936; Freud, 1953; Gould, 1972; Kardos and Peto, 1956; Sandler and Nagera, 1963; Waelder, 1932), or it can possibly serve an expansive purpose in furthering the child's mastery and competence over the internal/external environment (Griffiths, 1935; Klinger, 1971; Lowenfeld, 1935; Murphy, 1956; Piaget, 1961; Schachtel, 1959; Singer, 1973). The former aims at protection and restitution (Freud, 1936; 1965), the latter at exploration and adaptation.

Fantasy as a defensive strategy is exemplified in the psychoanalytic interpretation of fantasy play as being a

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cathartic release and compromised fulfillment of primitive, repressed, ego-dystonic libidinal striving and impulses, with the temporary suspension of ego alleviating the anxiety and guilt normally associated with these strivings (Freud, 1936; 1965; Freud, 1953; Gould, 1972; Kardos and Peto, 1956; Sandler and Nagera, 1963; Waelder, 1932).

Fantasy here is theorized to allow expression and integration of anxiety arousing wishes and fears through exaggeration and symbolic representation which buffer and distance the child from the direct impact of what is being expressed. The "repetition compulsion" (Freud, 1953)--a perpetual re-enacting of a traumatic event under safe circumstances in an attempt to gain mastery over a situation in which the child previously felt helpless--is an exaggerated instance of fantasy play serving defensive ends.

Fantasy as a means of expansion and adaptation is conceptualized by Piaget (1961) who, while also pointing out its wishfulfilling purpose, further speculates that through fantasy play the child is able to assimilate reality in such a manner so that the ego can effectively integrate it rather than be overwhelmed by it. Pre-existing schemas are thus both consolidated and altered in the fantasy play to better accommodate reality.

Expanding on these formulations, Singer (1973; 1975) applies Tomkins' (1962; 1963) theory of affects to a theory of fantasy play, noting that imaginative play reduces the

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novelty and complexity of new experiences which would otherwise evoke feelings of anxiety and fear. Instead, the resulting reduction of neural stimulation arouses interest-joy affects, the child thus wanting and being better able to adapt and master the new information. Singer summarizes, "(Fantasy play) is a form of exploration, a controlled examination of novelty and gradual assimilation of that novelty, that is accompanied by the altering affects of interest, surprise, and joy. The exploration is not of the physical environment but of a stimulus field created by the child's own insufficiently assimilated experiences and fantasies or memories of adult interactions and communications" (Singer and Singer, 1976, p. 12).

Klinger (1971), borrowing from stimulus-response and information processing theories, stresses that children's fantasy activities orient around their "current concerns"--"interrupted but nonabandoned instrumental response sequences." Fantasy play is thus a further attempt at instrumental adaptation as well as emotional integration. Current concerns have associated with them affects, expectancies, memories, and schemas of sequential operant behaviors. The child, in his/her fantasy play, tries out new combinations of these old schemas, grouped along the associated sequences of the current concerns. Elements are thus likely to be fused together in novel ways, creating new, adaptive, instrumental operations for the mastery of the environment.

Griffths (1935), in an earlier formulation of the adaptive, problem solving nature of fantasy play, conceptualized fantasy as serving to "undertake the resolution of a problem perceived at the conscious level but which cannot be straight away understood" (p. 356). Noting a specific ordering of the "fantasy work," Griffths outlined a three-fold process, involving (1) a statement of the problem, often reiterated time and again; (2) a development and embellishment of the problem by means of a series of successive imagined experimental and provisional solutions; (3) a formulation, by way of the child's increasing contact with the world, of a more objective, adaptive, and socially appropriate attitude and mode of responding. Thus fantasy play leads to the acquisition of new information and a change of attitude and perception, moving the child "from a personal, subjective, and generally egocentric attitude, towards a more socialized, objective, and realized attitude" (p. 74).

To synthesize from what has been reviewed, fantasy as a defensive mechanism is characterized by rigidity, repetitiveness, inflexibility, an undoing or redoing of past events, and an expulsivity in an urge to rid the self of a feared reality (Freud, 1936; 1965). Indeed fear, anxiety, and guilt are the dominant affects motivating the defensive response. Fantasy as an expansive mode is

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characterized by flexibility, variety, a seeking and exploration of novelty, and an embracement of the external world in an attempt to assimilate and bring into the self some newly discovered, exciting aspect of reality. Indeed excitement, interest, and joy are the motivating and associated affects of this form of play (Singer, 1973; Singer and Singer, 1976).

Clearly there are innumerable circumstances and events that evoke terror, dread, and angst in the human organism, necessitating temporary and long term mobilization of defensive stratagems. However, Maslow (1962), Rogers (1961), and others have argued that a fundamental sense of "psychological safety" (Stollak, 1978) derives ultimately within the context of significant human relationships. Stollak (1978) extends this viewpoint in emphasizing that it is the role of primary caregivers to maintain the sense of psychological (as well as physical) safety in the infant and child. Specifically, Stollak believes that caregiver behaviors that communicate an unconditional acceptance and acknowledgment of the validity of the child's thoughts, feelings, and experiencing function to maintain this sense of psychological safety, self worth and what Gould (1972) calls "entitlement." Furthermore, clear communication to the child of the caregivers' thoughts, feelings, and experiencing of the world, along with well defined

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and fully explicated limits and guidelines as to the behaviors expected from the child, function to protect, model for, and teach the child effective modes of being in the world. The studies previously reviewed are highly consistent with this line of reasoning.

Thus it is these parental caregiver behaviors, serving to maintain and foster the psychological safety of the child, which help free him/her to use fantasy play as an expansive strategy in the acquisition of modes of responding and adapting to the environment. Likewise, parental behaviors that disturb the child's sense of safety only serve to augment his/her need to use fantasy play as a defensive mechanism in coping with the feelings of fear, anxiety, helplessness, and loneliness that are thus aroused. To paraphrase Klinger (1971), fantasy is not only a response associated with the absence of "compelling external stimulation," but mature, highly developed, expansive fantasy play necessitates the absence of compelling internal psychological conflict.

#### Caregiver Behaviors and Children's Fantasy Play

Relevant to the preceding line of deduction is Singer's (1973) speculation that much of the highly aggressive, "dark" side of children's fantasy play derives from their frightening experiences with significant others, particularly parents who tease, threaten, and punish the child.



The child in these moments is overwhelmed with a sense of psychological non-safety (Maslow, 1961; Stollak, 1978) and uses the fantasy play to cope with the terror and angst that is thereby evoked. These frightening experiences with parents are the "material which the child then attempts to assimilate in grossly exaggerated or distorted form into his narrow range of schemata" (Singer, 1973, p. 232). Thus it is through exaggeration and elaboration that children desensitize themselves to their disturbing experiences with caregivers, thereby attempting to regain a sense of mastery and control.

Following these assumptions, one would speculate that children who experience their parents as frightening would display high amounts of exaggeratedly aggressive, frightening fantasy play. Similarly, children who do not experience their parents as frightening--and again, the essence of the "effective" caregiver behaviors previously discussed is that they presumably maintain and foster the psychological safety of the child--would have a low incidence of grossly elaborate fantasized aggression.

Sears (1951) and Sears, et al. (1953), indeed, found a clear positive relationship between fantasy aggression in doll play and severity of maternal punitiveness. These results were replicated by Hollenberg and Sperry (1951) who studied the children who participated in the Sears, et al. (1951) research a year later. Of particular interest was

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the finding that unlike overt, social display of aggressive behaviors, which showed a curvilinear relationship with severity of punishment for aggressive behavior in girls, the doll play aggression showed no such trend. Thus severely punished girls who inhibited overt expression of aggressive behaviors in the classroom did not do so in the doll play situation. The authors conceptualized the findings in terms of a learning theory paradigm, proposing that the mothers' punitive behaviors produced conflict-drive and increased frustration in their children. Punishment here was interpreted to evoke aggression in the children while at the same time increasing the tendency to inhibit the expression of aggressive behaviors for fear of further retaliation.

Similar results were found by Isch (1952) in comparing measures of "aggression," "rejection," and "directiveness" for mothers interacting with their children in a playroom environment, and the children's fantasy doll play. There was a significant, positive association between maternal aggression, rejection, and directiveness and the amount of such behaviors emitted by the mother doll in the fantasy play. Thus the fantasy play here was replicative of the actual behaviors of the mother.

In a more direct exploration of the effects of adult behaviors on children's fantasy play, Reif and Stollak (1972) found that "permissive" and "responsive" adult behaviors were positively related to mature, highly developed

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imaginative play in children. Children who encountered such adult behaviors engaged in fantasy play characterized by cognitive and affective complexity, interpersonal awareness, and "symbolic expression of conflict." "Non-permissive," "non-responsive" adult behaviors were positively associated with lower levels of fantasy play, e.g. disorganized motor behavior, greater use of inanimate rather than animate objects in the play, and more stereotypic responses.

Also relevant to the present investigation is a study by Wowkanech (1977), who found that preschool children rated as "competent/compliant" (Baumrind, 1967; 1973) by their teachers predominantly identified with "Provider-Protector" roles (Gould, 1972) in a modified Miniature Situations Test (Santostefano, 1962). Furthermore, these children perceived symbolic parental figures as using "reasoning" responses to deal with fantasized transgressions in Deviation Doll Play (Sears, Rau, and Alpert, 1965), while the children themselves apologized for the deviant acts. In contrast, "Impulsive/Withdrawn" children predominantly identified with "Aggressor" roles and displayed "continued deviant aggression" in their responses to fantasized transgressions. Wowkanech concludes, "It seems likely that strong identification with at least one stable parent figure, usually of the same sex, who is also generally 'permissive, nurturant,' vs. 'cold, restrictive,' is

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conducive to the promotion of the child's fantasy expression as a means of achieving 'catharsis' and/or 'ego mastery'" (p. 18).

The importance of this study lies in the fact that it is the only one in the current literature that addresses the relationship between children's perceptions of their parents' disciplinary behaviors, their psycho-social competency, and dimensions of their fantasy play. It was precisely the surprising paucity of research in this area that served as a key impetus for the present investigation, expanding on Wowkanech's contribution by additionally exploring the parents' self-perceptions of their caregiver behaviors in relation to the children's perceptions, psychosocial adjustment, and fantasy play.

To reiterate, the importance of studying children's fantasy play lies in the fact that whether the function of the play is "expansive" or "defensive," it is first and foremost communicative--expressing the child's perceptions, thoughts, feelings, and experiencing of his/her world. It is thus a "live, dynamic, individual language indispensable for the expression of subjective feelings, for which collective language alone is inadequate" (Piaget, 1962, p. 167). It is "exactly suited to the nature of what is signified" (Piaget, 1962, p. 155), often being "an expression of an intuitive idea that cannot yet be formulated in any other or better way" (Campbell, 1971, p. 307). It can be an

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expression of the numinous, a "bridge thrown out towards an unseen shore" (Campbell, 1971, p. 311). Fantasy play is thus a metaphorical, analogic mode of communicating, understanding, problem solving, and knowing (Campbell, 1971; Fromm, 1955; French and Fromm, 1964; Lowenfeld, 1935; Neuman, 1954; Samples, 1976), indispensable for the understanding of the effect of parental caregiver behaviors on the child.

#### Measurement of Children's Fantasy Play

The current study used the Lowenfeld World View Technique (Lowenfeld, 1935; 1938; 1939) to explore the fantasy play of the children who participated. The technique consists of a small sandbox and numerous objects (i.e. miniature people, animals, houses, trees, cars, etc.) with which the child creates a "World." The child is simply instructed to use the objects to build whatever s/he would like in the sandbox.

Deriving the idea from H. G. Wells' Floor Games (1911), Lowenfeld was quick to deduce the advantage of such an approach to exploring the inner world of childhood, for it gave the child a nonverbal medium to express his/her perceptions, thoughts, feelings, and experiencing of reality. Stressing that much of childhood experiencing (as well as that of adults) is of an inextricably nonverbal, image-thinking nature, the technique proved highly efficacious in

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tapping this analogic, metaphoric domain. Lowenfeld speaks of the World Technique as being, "An apparatus which gives a child power to express his ideas and feelings . . . independent of knowledge of skill . . . capable of the representation of thought simultaneously in several places at once, allowing representation of movement and yet being sufficiently circumscribed to make a complete whole, combining elements of touch and sensation, as well as sight, and being entirely free from a necessary relation to reality" (Lowenfeld, 1938, p. 67). The nonorganization of external structuring is particularly conducive to the elicitation of rich, diverse fantasy play, while the concrete, three-dimensional product lends itself easily to objective scoring.

Further development and standardization of the technique have been attempted by numerous researchers (Bolgar and Fischer, 1947; Bowyer, 1956; Buhler and Kelly, 1941; Murphy, 1956; Van Wylick, 1935). This work has established construct validity for the instrument, e.g. the technique effectively discriminated normal from clinic populations (Bowyer, 1956; 1958; Buhler, 1951; Fischer, 1950; Lumbry, 1951); normal from institutionally retarded individuals (Bowyer, 1958; Buhler, 1951); and children at different developmental stages (Bowyer, 1956; Kamp and Kessler, 1967; Van Wylick, 1935). The dimensions that discriminated among these populations will be explicated below.

Relevant to the present investigation is a study by Ridley (1952) comparing the Worlds of 12 year old boys with teacher rating of their psycho-social adjustment. Worlds were scored solely on a structurally quantitative basis (i.e. number and kinds of objects used), and thus it is not surprising that no significant results were found. Indeed it would appear that the subtleties and complexities of children's fantasy behaviors would be better reflected in measures that approached both the structural and content aspects of the Worlds using broad yet highly specified and detailed categories of analysis.

In a more sophisticated design, Buhler and Carrol (1951) compared the Worlds of 30 5th graders with teacher ratings of the children's "adjustment to the environment" and "inner balance." The children were also administered the California Test of Personality and the Brown Personality Test. Results showed a highly positive relationship between the amount of aggression in the Worlds and teacher ratings of low adjustment and "inner balance." Low psycho-social adjustment also positively correlated with "Empty," "Closed," "Rigid," and "Disorganized" Worlds. Interestingly, neither personality inventory correlated with teacher rating or Worlds; the authors speculating this as being due to the nature of the different measures--the personality inventories reflecting more social desirability and the children's attempts to "look good," the teacher ratings reflecting

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more immediate social behaviors, while the Worlds illuminated "deeper" aspects of the personality.

The six "symptoms" delineated by Buhler (1951) and used in the preceding study have become the categories most frequently used to evaluate children's Worlds (Bowyer, 1956; 1958; Buhler and Carrol, 1951; Lumbry, 1951; Ridley, 1952). These are: (1) "Unpeopled Worlds" lacking any people or animals, theoretically indicative of severe disturbances in social relationships; (2) "Empty Worlds" of five or less object categories or fewer than fifty total objects used, reflecting an inability to use cognitive resources due to either intellectual limitation or emotional blockage; (3) "Fenced Worlds" where many areas are closed off by fences or other objects, considered to signify "active self protection" by children who either fear their own impulses and seek outside control, and/or wish separation and seclusion from a world perceived as hostile; (4) "Rigid Worlds" where there is an exaggeration of symmetry and order, suggesting an attempt at impulse control by obsessional means; (5) "Disorganized Worlds" with objects scattered chaotically with no apparent interrelationship, interpreted to reflect dissolutionment and breakdown of ego organization; (6) "Aggressive Worlds" with themes of extreme violence and destruction, found in all groups of children though apt to be more "primitive" (i.e. animals devouring people as opposed to institutionalized forms of aggression such as war) in

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clinic referred children. Bowyer (1970) speculates, however, that aggression may denote "emotional potential" rather than hostility or fear of hostility, implying an "ability to face dangers without repression, and to work through them, play them out" (p. 90).

The present study incorporated Buhler's (1951) categories in the evaluation of the children's Worlds. However, since these categories, like the vast majority of measures used to assess fantasy play, emphasize pathological manifestations in the play rather than attempting to measure what might constitute the characteristics of highly mature, competent fantasy, other criteria were developed. Thus concepts initially formulated by other researchers were elaborated and adapted by the present Experimenter to form the following scales: Benevolence (Gould, 1972, Hartwell, et al., 1953; Wowkanech, 1977), Adequacy (Hartwell, et al., 1953), Assertion (Erikson, 1950; Pitcher and Prelinger, 1963), Construction (Erikson, 1950; Pitcher and Prelinger, 1963), Dominance (Hartwell, et al., 1953; Pitcher and Prelinger, 1963), Submission (Hartwell, et al., 1953; Pitcher and Prelinger, 1963), Dependence (Erikson, 1950; Hartwell, et al., 1953; Pitcher and Prelinger, 1963), Expansion (Bowyer, 1956; Lewin, 1935; Pitcher and Prelinger, 1963; Werner, 1948), and Propensity for Imaginative Play (see Singer and Singer, 1976), as well as Aggression (Bowyer, 1956; Buhler, 1951; Hartwell, et al., 1953; Pitcher and



Prelinger, 1963; Sears, 1947). Emphasis was placed on evaluating theme content, though records of all objects used were made. Composite scores of Human, Animal, and Transportation object use were made based on Gondor's (1964) speculation, supported by Gershowitz (1974) and Pitcher and Prelinger (1963), that a progression from inanimate to animal to human object reference in fantasy play was indicative of increasing ego development.

Summary. Unlike previous studies, the orientation towards the scoring of children's Worlds in the current investigation was designed to assess aspects of fantasy play indicative of high psycho-emotional functioning, rather than pathology. A wide array of scoring systems--both specifically for the World Technique, as well as for other projective and play techniques--that have shown to be discriminative of high and low psycho-social adjustment were drawn upon (Bach, 1945; Bolgar and Fischer, 1947; Bowyer, 1956; Buehler, 1951; Gershowitz, 1974; Gould, 1972; Hartwell, et al., 1953; Kamp and Kessler, 1967; Leary, 1957; Murray, 1943; Pitcher and Prelinger, 1963; Sears, et al., 1947; Singer, 1973; Tomkins, 1947; Wowkanech, 1977). Any construction of a protocol to assess fantasy behavior must be approached with great humility, for one is immediately faced with an enigma--how to meaningfully quantify the phenomena without losing the quality of what is being expressed.

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The difficulty of the task is made clearer in the realization that fantasy is essentially a metaphorical, non-syntactic, analogic, "right brain" phenomenon, while the language of statistical analysis is by its very nature a highly lineal, syntactic, digital, "left brain" system. The dilemma is thus one of changing apples into algorithms while still preserving something of the essential "apple-ness."

### Developmental Aspects of Children's Fantasy Play

The ages of the children who participated in the present research ranged from 6-9 years to 9-3 years, with a median age of 8-2 years. This is a stage of maturation typified by characteristic development in the physical, cognitive, interpersonal, and psychogenetic spheres. Thus a brief overview of the expected cognitive, social, emotional, and intra-psychic characteristics and concerns of this age period will be given before further explicating the dependent measures used in the present study.

### Cognitive Functioning

By age seven the child, according to Piaget (1937), is progressing into the stage of Concrete Operations. Cognitive functioning is here characterized by a developing ability for conservation, reversibility, negation, deductive reasoning, inference, introspection, seeking causal explanations in objects themselves, an awareness of

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reciprocal relationships, logical classification, and serialization. There is a high level of cognitive differentiation (Werner, 1948), with a decrease in animism and syncretic, egocentric thinking as the thought processes become more socialized. With this comes an increased concern for objectivity and realism. There is also a progression from what Stevenson (1962) termed "reflexive to reflective behavior," with an increase in planning before acting.

### Psychological Development

From the psychoanalytic perspective, the child at age seven has passed through the sequence of pre-genital stages, having moved through the height of the Oedipal drama, and has now entered into the latency period (Freud, 1953). Here childhood sexuality is supposedly inhibited, with the decreased intensity of libidinal urges and the regnancy of specifically cathected objects allowing for a return of interest to the external world. There is an increased awareness of self, along with some ability to take on the role of others. Parental sanctions have now been internalized, solidifying the formation of the superego.

This hallmarks Erickson's (1950) stage of Industry vs. Inferiority. Fantasy themes thus revolve around social accomplishments, technical achievements, and the discovery of how things operate and are made. Responsibility, competence, assertiveness, ingenuity, effectiveness, and



persistence are further characteristic themes of the fantasy play of this stage of psychosexual development (Pitcher and Prelinger, 1963). Superego conflicts are typically expressed through themes of punishment, retribution, dominance/submission, judgment, positive/negative adequacy, shame, and guilt (Hartwell, et al., 1953; Haworth, 1966; Pitcher and Prelinger, 1963). Furthermore, children by this age--with their own ego boundaries having been more solidified--are better able to distinguish fantasy from reality, more easily moving in and out of both while being able to discriminate real from pretend danger (what Gould (1972) terms "fluctuating certainty").

#### Major Tasks and Concerns

A significant shift at this stage of development of the child is the loosening of ties to the parents, accompanied by the increased importance of school and peer group in the child's life space (Erikson, 1950). Thus school adjustment, relationships with peers, development of independence, autonomy, self-reliance, and a mastery of cognitive, social, and motor skills all become issues of paramount importance for the child. Specific fears and concerns of this age group thus typically center around school failure, peer acceptance, disease, disfigurement, and death (Jersild, 1968; Jersild and Holmes, 1935).

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### Defenses and Coping Strategies

The decrease in egocentricity by age seven is accompanied by a decrease in the feelings of self and parental omnipotence. The fears and concerns evoked by this, in conjunction with the tasks of psycho-social-cognitive acquisition now demanded of the child, call forth a parallel development of defensive and coping strategies (Freud, 1936; Murphy, 1962). Anna Freud (1936) delineated a hierarchical ordering of defense mechanisms, with the child regressing to using the more primitive ones under stress or where proper maturation has not occurred. The major defensive tactics of this age period are repression, undoing, isolation, displacement, projection, reaction formation, and sublimation, the latter two being the most prominent (Freud, 1936). Rationalization and intellectualization characterize more sophisticated defensive strategies and thus would be expected to be employed by those children who are more psycho-socially advanced.

In summary, it would be expected that, to the degree fantasy content centers around children's "current concerns" (Klinger, 1971), the typical fantasy play of seven to nine year old children would be characterized by themes of mastery and conquest over the environment, assertion, autonomy, adequacy, construction, social recognition, dominance/submission, and benevolence/aggression. Such themes thus reflect children's concerns and struggles with their

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developing sense of self, of independence and separation from parents, of increased mastery over the internal and external domain necessitated by the demands of socialization and the subsequent rapid acquisition of new cognitive, social, and motor skills, and of the increased valuing of peer acceptance and recognition. Depiction of exaggerated power and ability would be expected in children of less psycho-social competence as they employ reaction formation to compensate for their feelings of helplessness, powerlessness, and inadequacy. Highly adjusted children, however, would be expected to manifest themes of construction, assertion, and benevolence in their fantasy play (Gould, 1972; Hartwell, et al., 1953; Pitcher and Prelinger, 1963).

### Dependent Measures

#### Structure of the Children's Worlds

Structural aspects of the children's Worlds were measured using object frequency counts and rating scales along the five structural dimensions found to be significantly related to psycho-social adjustment in past research (Bowyer, 1956; Buhler, 1951; Buhler and Carrol, 1951; Lumbry, 1951; Ridley, 1952). Thus composite scores were made for the number of human figures used (Buhler's "Unpeopled" score), as well as the number of animals and transportation vehicles used (Gerschowitz, 1974; Gondor, 1964; Pitcher and Prelinger, 1963). A rating for "Sparseness" and a record of the total number of objects,

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categories, and subcategories used gave a measure of "Emptiness," following Lewin's (1935) and Werner's (1948) conceptualization of maturity as involving an increase in the differentiation and organization of part-to-whole relationships, here being manifested in the increased number of objects and categories used to form a coherent, integrated World (Bowyer, 1956; 1958; Kamp and Kessler, 1967). "Closedness," "Rigidity," and "Disorganization" (Buhler, 1951) were evaluated by rating scales.

#### Content of the Fantasy Play

Children were asked to describe what they had created and explain on-going events while building their Worlds, most doing so spontaneously, often becoming deeply engrossed in dramatically playing with the objects rather than formally constructing a scene. From these descriptions and play frequency counts of thematic content were made along the following dimensions:

(1) Aggression. Numerous researchers using the World Technique have found a positive relationship between high degrees of aggression and low psycho-social adjustment, particularly when the aggression was of a "primitive" level (i.e. animals devouring people in contrast to more "socialized" aggression such as war) (Bowyer, 1956; 1958; 1970; Buhler, 1951; Buhler and Carrol, 1951; Lumbry, 1951; Ridley, 1952). This positive relationship between high fantasized

aggression and low psycho-social adjustment has also been consistently found in the doll play research (Bach, 1945; Isch, 1952; Sears, et al., 1947; see Levin and Wardwell, 1962), as well as studies using children's spontaneous stories (Buss, 1961; Kapan, 1956), stories to stimulus pictures (Hartwell, et al., 1953), and fantasy play in a natural setting (Gould, 1972).

(2) Benevolence. Hartwell, et al. (1953) in studying the responses of over 700 children to stimulus pictures while developing the Michigan Picture Test, found that children rated highest on psycho-social adjustment by their teachers expressed significantly more themes of positive affiliation, affection, and love than children rated as poorly adjusted.

Gould (1972), in her analysis of children's spontaneous fantasy play, discerned three forms of identification used by the children in their play: (1) Identification with the Provider-Protector role (characterized by acts of nurturance, care, and giving); (2) Identification with the Aggressor (characterized by acts of destruction towards others/objects; (3) Identification with the Victim (characterized by being hurt by the environment). Gould speculates that identification with the Provider-Protector role derives from the children's early experiences with caregivers as warm, nurturant, and protective, and was indicative of positive psycho-emotional adjustment.

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Strong empirical support for this contention was given by Wowkanech (1977), who found that children rated as "Competent/Compliant" (Baumrind, 1967) by their teachers indeed chose "Provider-Protector" roles significantly more frequently than peers who were not perceived to be as highly adjusted. The "Competent/Compliant" children furthermore depicted parents as using "reasoning" responses in dealing with fantasized transgressions in Deviation Doll Play, thus suggesting they perceived their parents as using caregiver behaviors presumed to enhance psycho-emotional development in children by the research previously reviewed (Baumrind, 1967; 1971; Baumrind and Black, 1970; Becker, 1964; Coopersmith, 1967; Hoffman, 1963; Liberman, et al., 1971; Mussen, 1970).

(3) Adequacy. Hartwell, et al. (1953) found that children rated as highly adjusted by their teachers gave significantly more references of both positive and negative "adequacy" to stimulus pictures (i.e. "She's a pretty girl eating the yucky cereal") than children rated as poorly adjusted.

(4) Assertion. As was previously discussed, the children in the present study were psychologically in Erikson's stage of Industry vs. Inferiority (Erikson, 1950). Thus high psycho-social development would be expected to be reflected in fantasy themes of assertion, self-sufficiency, self-reliance, confidence, and mastery (Pitcher and



Prelinger, 1963).

(5) Construction. Pitcher and Prelinger (1963) found a trend towards an increase in themes of building and construction with increasing ego development in boys, supporting Erikson's (1950) theory of psychogenic development. The oldest children in their study were five years of age, thus the authors suggest the need to study older age groups to see in what way this trend continues. Their suggestion was a impetus for the use of the seven to nine year old age range in the present study.

(6) Dominance. Pitcher and Prelinger (1963) also speculate that characteristic superego development and conflict in this age group are typically expressed in themes of dominance and control. Such themes represent the subjugation of ego-distonic impulses by internalized parental and social norms. Studies by Hartwell, et al (1953) and Haworth (1966) are corrabrative here.

A specific association between themes of dominance and psycho-social adjustment have not been clearly differentiated, however it would seem reasonable to expect a curvilinear relationship, with either a very low or very high frequency of such themes being indicative of lax or overly harsh superego functioning and thus less satisfactory psycho-social adjustment (Gould, 1972). Dominance themes would also appear to be related to assertion and self confidence, reflecting the ability to impose one's will on the environment.

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(7) Submission. This is a corollary to the above score based on the same rational (Erikson, 1950; Hartwell, et al., 1953; Haworth, 1966; Pitcher and Prelinger, 1963). High scores on this scale would conceptually be related to a sense of helplessness, inferiority, and subjugation to external demands, in contrast to feelings of autonomy-control (Erikson, 1950; Pitcher and Prelinger, 1963) and "entitlement" (Gould, 1972). Whether the fantasy play is here replicative of domineering parental practices, or reflective of intra-psychic superego conflicts within the child, a high score on Submission would be expected to positively relate with low psycho-social adjustment.

(8) Dependence. A key component of the latency period and the Industry vs. Inferiority stage, is the child's slowly emerging independence and separation from his/her parents as a necessary occurrence for the individuation of self (Erikson, 1950). Thus a decrease in themes of dependency, concomitant with an increase in themes of assertion and self-sufficiency, would be expected in the fantasy play of highly competent children during this stage of development (Pitcher and Prelinger, 1963).

(9) Expansion. In their study of developmental trends in children's fantasy stories, Pitcher and Prelinger (1963) noted a general progression towards increasing expansion and differentiation of the internal/external domain, thereby lending support to the developmental theories of

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Lewin (1935) and Werner (1948). These findings were strongly corroborated by Bowyer (1956) and Kamp and Kessler (1967) in their studies of developmental trends in children's Worlds. Expansion here was reflected in an increasing use of the sandbox area, an increase in Worlds depicting events outside of the child's immediate environment (i.e. foreign lands or outer space), and an increase reference to past or future events as opposed to sole use of present time. This expansion on the spacial and temporal dimensions was assumed to reflect a general expansion in the child's psychological life-space.

(10) Propensity. Numerous studies have found a significant positive relationship between a general ability and proclivity to engage in fantasy play and high psycho-social adjustment (Meichenbaum and Goodman, 1971; Nahme-Huang, et al., 1976; Rosenhan, et al., 1974; Singer, 1973; Spivak and Levine, 1964). Singer and Singer (1976) in their review of the literature state, "In general, the data suggest that imaginative play is accompanied by a good deal of positive emotionality and that children already predisposed to imaginativeness in their play are likely to show less overt aggressive behavior, to be harder to arouse to aggression following frustration, and to show, in general, more positive affects or indeed a broader range of affects than children less imaginatively inclined" (p. 99).

Propensity for Fantasy play in the current study was measured using several rating scale items that theoretically reflected various dimensions of the child's ability to engage in complex, highly developed fantasy behaviors.

#### HYPOTHESES

The purpose of the present investigation was to explore the relationship between parents' self-perception of their caregiving behaviors, children's perceptions of their parents' caregiving behaviors, children's psycho-social adjustment, and their fantasy play. Perceptions of caregiver behaviors were measured by rating scales along several dimensions deemed relevant to children's psycho-social adjustment by past research; children's psycho-social adjustment was measured by teacher-parent ratings of relevant child behaviors. Children's fantasy play, using the Lowenfeld World Technique (Lowenfeld, 1935), was assessed using rating scales and frequency counts along dimensions shown to be relevant by the literature. The following hypotheses were examined:

High psycho-social adjustment in the children will be positively related to: (1) Parents' perceiving themselves as exhibiting "effective" caregiver behaviors; (2) children's perceptions of their parents exhibiting "effective" caregiver behaviors; (3) fantasy play behaviors in the children's Worlds exhibiting (a) Benevolence, (b) Adequacy, (c) Assertion, (d) Construction, (e) Dominance, (f)

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High psycho-social adjustment in the children will be negatively related to: (1) Parents' perceiving themselves as exhibiting "ineffective" caregiver behaviors; (2) children's perceptions of their parents exhibiting "ineffective" caregiver behaviors; (3) fantasy play behaviors in the children's Worlds exhibiting (a) Aggression, (b) Submission, and/or (c) Dependency.

Indices of "competent" child fantasy play (Benevolence, Adequacy, Assertion, Construction, Dominance, Expansion, and Propensity) will be positively related to: (1) Parents' perceiving themselves as exhibiting "effective" caregiver behaviors; (2) children's perceptions of their parents exhibiting "effective" caregiver behaviors.

Indices of "competent" child fantasy play will be negatively related to: (1) Parents' perceiving themselves as exhibiting "ineffective" caregiver behaviors; (2) children's perceptions of their parents exhibiting "ineffective" caregiver behaviors.

Indices of "less competent" child fantasy play (Aggression, Submission and Dependency) will be positively related to: (1) Parents' perceiving themselves as exhibiting "ineffective" caregiver behaviors; (2) children's perceptions of their parents exhibiting "ineffective" caregiver behaviors.



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## METHOD

### Subject Selection

Roughly 350 introductory letters, with stamped, addressed return postcards, were distributed to first through fourth grade students attending eight elementary schools in the Lansing area (see Appendix A). The students were instructed to take the letters home to their parents. In addition to explaining the general nature of the current study, the letters requested the parents to return the enclosed stamped, addressed postcard indicating their willingness to receive a phone call from the Experimenter to further explain the study and arrange for their participation during the months of January through March, 1977, should they decide to become involved.

Thirty-seven postcards (10.6%) were returned, of which only 10 fit the specific criteria for subject selection of the present investigation. Subjects were to be 7-9 year old Caucasian males, living in two-parent families. Fortunately, all 10 of those who fit these criteria agreed to participate.

Clearly, the present sample cannot be considered representative of the total population of 7-9 year old boys and their families. However, given the paucity of

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knowledge as to the characteristics of fantasy play of boys in this age range--particularly in respect to the World View Technique (WVT)--and the lack of well developed scoring categories for the WVT.

### Sample Characteristics

General demographic information on the children and their families (age of the subject, age and sex of his siblings, ages, occupations, and years of education of both parents) were obtained through a form completed by the parents (see Appendix B). The children, all Caucasian males, ranged in age from 6-9 to 9-3, with a mean age of 8-2. The sample was highly homogenous with respect to birth order (80% being second or third born) with only one child having no siblings. The children were living in two-parent, "middle-class" urban families, (Groups II of the Hollingshead Index), with fathers working in "white-collar" and professional occupations (see Appendix G for a more detailed summary of the sample characteristics).

### Procedure

#### Independent Measures

Packets containing all the inventories used in the current investigation, and a stamped envelope addressed to the E, were distributed by the E to the parents and teachers of the children participating in the study. Parents received their packets during the initial home visit and

were instructed to complete all the inventories independently. After obtaining parental permission, teachers were telephoned by the E and asked if they would be willing to fill out three inventories on the designated child. All the teachers agreed to do so, and packets were delivered to the schools by the E.

All inventory packets were returned in the self addressed, stamped envelopes provided by the E while the subjects were participating in the fantasy play procedure. Inventory packets were not opened, however, until all Subjects had been run, thereby assuring blindness as to Ss' psycho-social functioning and their parents' caregiving behaviors.

Children's Psycho-social Adjustment: An abridged version of the Children's Behavior Checklist (CBC) (Ferguson, et al., 1974) (see Appendix C)--independently filled out by the Ss' parents and teachers--was used as one measure of psycho-social adjustment. Cumulative scores of positive and dysfunctional adjustment were derived from the totals of items found by Ferguson, et al. (1974) to be characteristic of nonclinic and clinic referred children, as designated by their parents. For an item to be counted in the cumulative score in the present study, it not only had to be designated as "applying" to the child but in fact be "characteristic" of him.

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An abridged version of the Developmental Profile (in current study designated as "B-P") (Besell and Palomares, 1970)--an inventory specifically oriented towards assessing competent, pro-social behaviors in children--was independently filled out by each S's parents and teacher (see Appendix C). The B-P gives a single, global score of psycho-social adjustment.

In addition to the above inventories, teachers also filled out the A-M-L Behavior Rating Scale (AML) (Cowen, et al., 1975), an instrument that yielded a single, global score indicative of the child's psycho-social adjustment in the classroom (see Appendix C).

Parents' Perceptions of Their Caregiving Behaviors: Parents' perceptions of their caregiving behaviors were assessed using two inventories, completed independently by both parents.

The Child Rearing Concerns and Practices (CRCP) inventory developed by Green (1975) was used to yield 9 factors and 3 variables theoretically associated with positive and negative caregiving behaviors (see Appendix D). The 9 factors were as follows: (1) Concern with Child's Pro-social Behavior (assumed to be indicative of positive parenting behaviors); (2) Concern with Child's Aggression-Hostility (assumed to be a positive trait); (3) Criticize-Threaten (assumed to be a negative trait); (4) Give Extrinsic Rewards for Desired Behavior (assumed to be a negative

trait); (5) Point Out Intrinsic Reward for Desired Behavior (assumed to be a positive trait); (6) Nonverbal Rejection (assumed to be a negative trait); (7) Inductive Discipline (assumed to be a positive trait); (8) Express Pride (assumed to be a positive trait); (9) Demand Self Control (assumed to be a positive trait). The 3 additional variables, assumed to be indicative of negative parenting behaviors, were Criticize-Shaming, Do Nothing, and Take Desirable Behavior for Granted. In the present investigation these factor and variable scores were grouped together to form two composite scores of positive and negative caregiver behaviors.

In addition to the CRCP, parents also independently completed an abridged, revised version of Schaeffer's (1965) Children's Report of Parental Behavior inventory (CRPB) (Armentrout and Burger, 1972; Burger and Armentrout, 1971) (see Appendix D). The inventory yielded 3 orthogonal factors assumed to be characteristic of positive and negative caregiving behaviors. The 3 factors were: (1) Acceptance vs. Rejection (Acceptance was assumed to be positive); (2) Psychological Autonomy vs. Psychological Control (Psychological Autonomy was assumed to be positive); (3) Firm Control vs. Lax Control (Firm Control was assumed to be positive).

Children's Perceptions of Their Parents' Caregiving Behaviors: An abridged, revised version of Schaeffer's (1965)

Children's Report of Parental Behavior inventory (CRPB) (see Appendix E) was orally administered by the E to each S in his home upon the initial visit. The inventory was administered separately for the child's perception of his father and mother, thereby individually assessing the child's perception of each parent along the 3 orthogonal dimensions listed above.

During the initial visit to the home, each S was also administered by the E the Vocabulary and Block Design subtests of the Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children--Revised. These scores, ranging from 10 to 16 ( $\bar{X} = 13.3$ ; s.d. = 1.89) on Vocabulary and 9 to 19 ( $\bar{X} = 14.7$ ; s.d. = 3.59) on the Block Design, were obtained to help determine any possible relationship between verbal or analogic intelligence and behaviors on the WVT. Pearson correlations showed no significant relationship between the WISC-R scores and any of the dimensions assessed on the WVT.

A Rorschach was administered to each S by the E before beginning the first WVT session. Protocols were obtained for possible future comparison to behaviors on the WVT.

#### Dependent Measures

Children's Fantasy Play Behaviors: The children's fantasy play was prompted using the Lowenfeld World View Technique (WVT) (Lowenfeld, 1935; 1938; 1939). The WVT, also known as the "Sandtray Technique" (Bowyer, 1970), the "World

Test" (Buhler, 1951), and "Sandplay" (Kalff, 1971), consists of a small sandbox (~~36~~" x 25") and numerous objects (i.e. miniature people, animals, houses, vehicles, trees, etc.), stored by groupings on 12 shelves in a cabinet. The cabinet and sandbox were made for the E\* following specifications suggested by Bowyer (1970). Toys were selected and purchased by the E at various stores throughout the Lansing area using lists suggested in Bowyer (1970) and Kalff (1971). Tombstones, certain buildings, explosion/fire objects, and other miscellaneous objects were constructed by the E.

Each child was picked up at his home and driven to Olds Hall, on the Michigan State University Campus, by the E, who returned them home at the end of each session. Each child was brought to a self-contained room with a one-way mirror, having been informed that his fantasy play would be videotaped. Before beginning, the child was introduced to the camera person in the adjoining room behind the one-way mirror and allowed to explore the videotape equipment. Upon entering the room with the sandbox and object cabinet, the E introduced the WVT in the following manner:

This is a miniature sandbox and this is a cabinet full of little toys. As you can see there are tiny people, animals, houses, cars, trees, and all kinds of other things

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\*I wish to thank Mr. M. Little for the elegant work he did on the cabinet and sandbox. His expertise and cooperation were greatly appreciated.

(the child is shown the objects on each of the 12 shelves). I'd like you to build whatever you'd like with these toys in the sandbox. You can use as many or as few of the toys as you like, and build for as short or as long a time as you'd like for up to an hour. If you spread the sand, you could use the blue painted bottom as make-believe water (the author spreads the sand to show the blue bottom). Go ahead and make whatever you'd like in the sandbox with the toys.

The E sat to the side of the sandbox while the child constructed his World. The child was occasionally asked to clarify what he was doing and when finished, asked to describe what he had made. Each child also was asked upon completion whether his World depicted a scene in the past, present, or future, whether the events were occurring during morning, noon, or night, whether he would want to be in the World, and if so who or what would he be and what would he be doing.

The child was brought back to make a World two more times during the week, thus each child made three Worlds in one week. In introducing the second and third sessions the child was told to build whatever he would like in the sandbox using as many or as few of the toys as he would like, taking as little or as much time as he would like for up to an hour. The rest of the procedure for the two additional Worlds were identical to the initial session.

Scoring the Dependent Measures: Drawing upon a diverse spectrum of scoring systems used in a multitude of fantasy

play and projective techniques (Bach, 1945; Bolgar and Fischer, 1947; Bowyer, 1956; Buhler, 1951; Gershowitz, 1974; Gould, 1972; Hartwell, et al., 1953; Kamp and Kessler, 1963; Leary, 1957; Murray, 1943; Pitcher and Prelinger, 1963; Sears, et al., 1947; Singer, 1973, Tomkins, 1947; Wowkanech, 1977), measures were developed by the current E to assess those dimensions of fantasy play that best discriminated high and low psycho-social functioning in children. Both frequency counts (see Appendix F) and rating scales (see Appendix F) were used in assessing these dimensions. Frequency counts, scored by raters independently viewing videotapes of the WVT sessions, were made of the number of times specified behaviors occurred during each 30 second interval. The occurrence of relevant behaviors was determined in three possible ways: (1) direct action or verbalization by the child to an object (i.e. the child kisses a figure or tells the Experimenter that the object is very beautiful); (2) action or verbalization through an object (i.e. one figure kisses another or tells another figure it is very beautiful); (3) action or verbalization described by the child to the Experimenter (i.e. the child states that a figure is kissing another figure or states that one figure is telling another one that it is very beautiful). Rating scales, independently scored by the raters after viewing the entire session, ranged from one to four, with four representing the "positive" end of the scale. An

object count was made by the author using the description . given at the end of each WVT session of the objects used (see Appendix F) .

Definitions for the 8 categories scored using frequency counts were as follows (see Appendix F for coding manual and rating forms) :

1. Aggression: Any event where something was physically or emotionally harmed. Aggression was differentiated into 8 subcategories--(a) Devouring/Biting, defined as any incident where a non-food object was bitten, eaten, or devoured; (b) Direct Physical, any incident involving purposeful, direct physical contact intended to harm another object (i.e. hitting, stabbing, kicking, smashing, choking, wrestling, running over, etc.) (if not obviously intentional the event would be scored under "Accident"); (c) Distance Physical, any incident involving a purposeful attempt to harm an object from a distance (i.e. shooting, bombing, exploding, throwing something to hurt an object, etc.), also any act of violence in which it was not stated how the act occurred though it was clearly not accidental (i.e. "they were murdered"), as well as poisoning; (d) Accident, any incident involving a harmful outcome where there was no apparent intentionality or control (i.e. accidental crashes, fires, natural disasters, etc.), also events involving a harmful outcome in which it was not stated how the act occurred (i.e. "they're dead"); (e) Verbal, any verbal

attempt to emotionally hurt or demean another object (i.e., teasing, ridiculing, swearing at, cursing, scolding, admonishing, threatening, harrassing, laughing at, embarrassing, name calling, etc.) (not merely stating a feeling, such as "I'm mad at you," or daring the other, as in "I bet you can't," but comments that were clearly not respecting the other and were attempting/succeeding in making the other feel bad); (f) Social, any incident that clearly, unambiguously breached social norms of etiquette and moral conduct that was not included in the preceding categories (i.e. lying, stealing, cheating, deceiving, scaring, rejecting pleas for help, taking away what others want, being greedy, being stingy, committing gross dissocial acts such as urinating in public, etc.); (g) Deprivation/Suffering, any incident of suffering, unhappiness, or unpleasantness due to general circumstances rather than purposeful aggression from other objects (i.e. hunger, sickness, coldness, general physical or emotional discomfort and uneasiness); (h) Abandonment/Lost, any incident where an object was left contrary to its desire as specified by the child or the object's reaction, as well as any incident in which an object is lost.

2. Benevolence: Any act of goodness towards an object. Benevolence was differentiated into 5 subcategories--(a) Physical, defined as any direct physical contact that communicated warmth and caring (i.e. kissing,



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hugging, cuddling, stroking, holding hands, arms around each other, massaging, patting the other on the back, etc.); (b) Verbal, any verbal expression of care, empathy, support, comfort, warmth, complimenting (i.e. "I love you," "I hope you feel better," "It'll be OK," "You're pretty" etc.) (compliments were also scored under "Adequacy: Positive"); (c) Helping/Rescuing, any incident where an object was helped or rescued (i.e. feeding, dressing, protecting, guiding, giving helpful advice, warning with clear concern for the object's welfare, taking care of a sick or hurt object, tucking into bed, guarding, etc.); as well as acts of service such as delivering milk, mail, or the paper; (d) Affiliative Acts, any incident where two or more objects were engaged in an activity that was clearly mutually enjoyable, as specified by the child or the objects' reactions (i.e. playing together, singing together, dancing together, etc.), as well as acts of generosity, care, goodwill, and joyful social events not included in the preceding categories (i.e. gift giving, sharing, social gatherings like parties, picnics, sporting events, weddings, parades, etc.); (e) Satisfying Experiences, anytime an object was feeling satisfied, happy, content, as specified by the child directly or through the object, due to general circumstances or specific acts by others (i.e. "I feel good today," "What a wonderful night's sleep," "The little girl was fed by her mother and felt great," etc.).

3. Dominance: Any act of controlling, ordering, commanding, forcing, demanding, restraining, arresting, or in any other way forcing one's will on another (i.e. "Stop that!" "Come here!" "You guys are under arrest," "The witch cast a spell so the girl couldn't move," "Superman grabbed him and wouldn't let him go" (this would not be scored "Direct Physical" unless the child stated that Superman was trying to hurt the person), etc.). The incidents here did not involve mere requests, giving the impression that two equals are interacting, but instead gave a clear sense that one object was or was trying to be more powerful than the other.

4. Construction: Events that involved physical building, creating, or producing, as depicted through the objects or through the child himself pretending to be a machine building something. The incidents here do not merely involve the child creating a World scene, but are defined by the specific use of objects or oneself to depict the building of something (i.e. "They're building a road," "These workmen are constructing a house," "They're clearing the land to build a housing project," "I'm a crane digging out the lake" (not merely the fact that the child used his hands to dig but that he specifically stated he was some kind of construction equipment building something), etc.). It is important to note that construction equipment could be used for destructive purposes, such as a crane

intentionally chopping off a person's head, at which point it would be scored as "Aggression: Direct Physical."

5. Adequacy: Any evaluative or judgmental reference about the characteristics of something or attribution of positive or negative qualities to it. Adequacy was differentiated into 2 sub-categories--(a) Positive Adequacy, where the child directly or through another object attributed a positive quality or characteristic to an object (i.e. "You're beautiful," "The pretty princess," "She was strong and kind," etc.). Generally any use of a complimentary adjective, such as "wonderful," "cute," "smart," "generous," "honest," and the like, would be scored under Adequacy: Positive, though sometimes only context can define whether a description is meant positively or negatively. Thus, the "little, tiny puppy" might infer a positive cuteness or a negative helplessness. Furthermore, it might merely be descriptive without implied valuing, in which case it would not be scored at all. Complementary adjectives that became a part of an object's name, such as "the Good Fairy," were only scored one. (b) Negative Adequacy, in which the child directly or through another object attributed a negative quality or characteristic to an object (i.e. "You're ugly," "He was a cruel wolf," "That's a stupid house," etc.).

6. Submission: Any act of obeying, giving into the demands of another, following orders, going along with what one was told to do, cowering, feeling ashamed or embarrassed.

Events here did not involve the mere cooperation with a request but clearly gave the sense of an object willfully following the orders, demands, or commands of another object that was more powerful (i.e. "They obeyed the King's command," "They did exactly what she told them to do," "I'm embarrassed," "The dog was ashamed," etc.). Any explicit act of deference was also scored here, such as bowing.

7. Assertion: Any act involving asserting oneself to gain or maintain what one wanted. Assertion was differentiated into 2 sub-categories--(a) Reactive, as reflected in assertion against the restrictions, demands, or commands of others or the environment (i.e. "She refused to do what she was told to," "The river tried to sweep him in but he hung on," "It was real hot but he didn't let that stop him from playing," etc.); (b) Initiated, as shown in assertive acts to gain what one wanted that were not in response to external constrictions or demands, but rather acts that gave a sense of independence, self-sufficiency, resourcefulness, masterfulness, confidence, pride, effectiveness, autonomy, daringness, exploration (i.e. "The little girl tied her shoes all by herself," "She knew she could do it," "I don't need any help in building this road," "They were proud of the job they did all on their own," etc.).

8. Dependence: Any incident involving the seeking of aid, comfort, help, consolation, forgiveness, support, protection, guidance, advice, care, succorance (i.e. "They

asked for someone to come pick them up," "Please make me something to eat," "The cat wanted to lay in her lap," "I'm sorry I did that, I'll be better next time," "Don't let the monster hurt me, please protect me," "They asked him how to get to the town," etc.).

Frequency count subscales were composited to give a single score for each category per session. Mean scores for each dependent measure across all three WVT sessions were also determined and a Student's T-Test was performed to assess if there was a significant difference in category use between the three sessions.

A ninth dimension, "Propensity for Imaginitive Play," was also determined through several rating scale items. The measure was not intended to discriminate the degree or ability to deviate from the boundaries of reality (i.e. play involving fantastical events not possible in reality as opposed to those likely to occur in the child's everyday life), but rather to assess the child's ability to develop elaborate, complex stories and themes, irrespective of the degree of proximity to real life events. Definitions for each point on the scale were as follows:

- (1) The child shows little ability for imaginative play.
- (2) The child shows some ability for imaginative play.
- (3) The child shows quite a bit of ability for imaginative play.

- (4) The child shows a great deal of ability for imaginative play, creating rich, elaborate, highly involved themes and stories.

In addition to this global rating, several other ratings thought to be relevant to this same dimension were also scored. These were:

(A) Approach to Task--assessing the child's general way of creating his World, with each point on the scale being defined as follows:

- (1) Items carefully placed for scene construction, rarely played with.
- (2) Some playing with items during scene construction.
- (3) Quite a bit of playing with items during scene construction.
- (4) Much dramatic playing with items throughout the WVT session.

(B) Description vs. Story--determining the child's tendency to develop stories with the objects and scenes he constructs as opposed to building a scene and simply describing what has been made. Discriminative points on this scale were as follows:

- (1) The child merely constructs scene; no story or incidents are depicted, the child only describes what he has made.
- (2) A few brief events are depicted.
- (3) Several longer incidents are depicted.
- (4) Many stories and incidents are depicted; many interrelated events or one long story is developed.

(c) Theme Complexity--intended to discern the degree

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of sophistication elaboration, and complexity of the themes in the child's fantasy play. The descriptive points here were:

- (1) Theme very simple; merely descriptive of items.
- (2) Theme generally simple though a few aspects are more elaborate.
- (3) Theme somewhat complex with some elaboration of ideas.
- (4) Theme highly complex and elaborate.

A global score of the child's propensity for imaginative play was determined, both for each session and across all three WVT sessions, by compositing the above rating scales. Justification for such a grouping was based on a reliability analysis for the composite scale, resulting in a standardized item alpha of .99 for World I, .97 for World II, .80 for World III, and .92 across all three Worlds.

Other rating scale items were developed by the author as part of a 27 item rating scale protocol assessing various dimensions of the WVT (see Appendix F). Unfortunately, there was insufficient reliability to use any but the above items in the data analysis. (For a complete list of the reliabilities of each item see Table 2.)

Procedure for Coding the Fantasy Play: 3 sets of 2 raters each scored each child's WVT, with each rater working independently. Each set of raters was assigned to score one session from each of the 10 Subjects, alternately being

given the first, second, or third session (raters were not aware of which session they were scoring). To control for practice effect, raters in each set scored the WVT in reverse order. Thus one rater started with Subject 10 and worked back to Subject 1 while his/her partner started with Subject 1 and worked up to Subject 10. To assure all raters started scoring at the same point in the videotape, the author dubbed himself saying "now" at the beginning of each tape. Raters' means for the individual categories were used in the data analysis.

Unaware of the hypotheses of the current investigation, the six raters\* initially met together with the E and were given a manual defining the categories to be scored and the scoring procedures (see Appendix F). The manuals were read aloud, with each category being fully described and revised as needed. Raters kept their manuals to further familiarize themselves with the scoring dimensions. The raters met as a group with the E on 3 additional occasions to code a practice tape, thereby refining the scoring criterias and procedures until consensual agreement was reached. At this point, each rater was given a practice tape to score individually, with his/her rating being compared with the E's, who served as expert. The E then met

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\*I wish to thank Bob Bosner, Tim Grant, Janet Rostek, Deborah Savage, Jean Shackman and Ginny Tough for their dedication, perseverance, and precision throughout a mammoth job.



with each rater to clarify any specific problems. An additional practice tape was independently scored by the raters, with these scores being compared between raters and with the author and thereby used to determine inter-rater reliability. The reliabilities proved sufficient on all of the frequency count variables and on the "Propensity for Imaginative Play" variable which was scored via a rating scale (see Tables 1 and 2).

Reliability of the WVT Variables: Tables 1 and 2 represent the average correlations of the mean scores of each rater team over the 3 WVT sessions. The values are based on the scores of the 6 raters, independently rating their assigned 10 videotapes on the designated variables. Each rater was compared to his/her team member in deriving the inter-coder reliability.

As can be seen, the reliability for all the frequency count variables (Table 1) was very high, most being at the  $p < .001$  level and thus sufficient to be used in the subsequent analyses. However, some of the rating scale items originally developed and trained for did not reach sufficient reliability ( $p < .05$ ) (Table 2) and unfortunately had to be dropped.

Table 1. Inter-rater reliabilities across the 3 WWT sessions on dimensions assessed using frequency counts.

Variable	Rater Team		
	A	B	C
Aggression:			
Devouring/Biting	.98	.99	.98
Direct Physical	.91	.94	.95
Distance Physical	.95	.91	.94
Accident	.93	.90	.92
Verbal	1.00	.99	.99
Social	.97	.96	1.00
Deprivation/Suffering	.99	.98	.98
Abandonment/Lost	1.00	1.00	1.00
Benevolence:			
Physical	1.00	1.00	1.00
Verbal	.98	.98	.99
Helping/Rescuing	.94	.92	.94
Affiliative Acts	.99	.98	.97
Satisfying Experiences	.98	.97	.98
Dominance	.93	.93	.95
Construction	.93	.92	.91
Adequacy:			
Positive	.99	.91	.98
Negative	.98	.97	.96
Submission	.98	.98	.97
Assertion:			
Reactive	.99	.98	.98
Initiated	.99	.97	.98
Dependence	1.00	.98	.91

Table 2. Inter-rater reliabilities across the 3 WVT sessions on dimensions assessed using rating scales.

Variable	Rater Team		
	A	B	C
Involvement	---*	.18	.36
Approach	.75	.84	.86
Organization	.40	.27	.52
Structure	.56	---	.67
Haphazardness	.30	---	.62
Closedness	.44	.43	.50
Sparseness	---	---	.52
Crowdedness	.62	-.99	-.17
Area	---	.55	.57
Description/Story	.42	.79	.92
Realism	.64	.80	.68
Expansion	.80	.37	---
Time:			
Distant Past	1.00	1.00	.41
Past	.67	1.00	.61
Recent Past	1.00	.67	.50
Present	.80	.80	.41
Future	---	---	---
Complexity	.70	.73	.81
Main Figure	---	.37	.56
Qualities	.00	.15	.77
Emotions	---	.67	.55
Thinking	.00	.90	.98
Imaginary Figures	.78	.84	.13
Magic	---	---	---

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Table 2. (Continued)

Variable	Rater Team		
	A	B	C
Object Use	.84	-.20	.83
Propensity	.73	.87	.81
In/Out Ability	.32	.76	.54

\*Could not be computed due to one Rater holding constant



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## RESULTS

### Analysis of the Data

Pearson product moment correlation coefficients were derived to examine possible relationships between the independent and dependent measures, as well as to clarify possible relationships within the independent and dependent measures themselves. Thus the 3 independent variables--the children's psycho-social adjustment, the parents' perceptions of their caregiving behaviors, and the children's perceptions of their parents' caregiving behaviors--were correlated with the 9 dependent measures assessing the children's fantasy play (Aggression, Benevolence, Dominance, Construction, Adequacy, Submission, Assertion, Dependence, and Propensity for Imaginative Play).

A two-tailed Student's T-test was also performed to discern whether there was a significant difference between the 3 WVT sessions on the dependent measures.

### Independent Measures

Children's Psycho-social Adjustment: Table 3 shows the mean, standard deviation, and range of the Subject's scores obtained from parents' and teacher's ratings of dimensions

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Table 3. Means, standard deviations, and ranges of fathers', mothers', and teachers' ratings of children's psycho-social adjustment.

Rater	Inventory		
	B-P*	CBC Positive**	CBC Negative***
Father	$\bar{X} = 38.10$	17.58	5.20
	SD = 5.00	6.40	6.70
	Range = 27-45	3-24	0-20
Mother	$\bar{X} = 35.70$	17.10	4.30
	SD = 4.50	5.30	4.80
	Range = 28-48	8-23	0-14
Teacher	$\bar{X} = 36.30$	10.80	3.70
	SD = 8.80	6.30	4.10
	Range = 24-48	4-24	0-11
<u>AML****</u>			
(Teacher)	$\bar{X} = 70.40$		
	SD = 24.40		
	Range = 45-121		

\*10-50 possible, higher score signifies positive adjustment.

\*\*0-27 possible, higher score signifies positive adjustment.

\*\*\*0-25 possible, higher score signifies negative adjustment.

\*\*\*\*43-215 possible, higher score signifies negative adjustment.

relevant to the Subject's psycho-social adjustment. Scores indicate that the sample was composed of children perceived to be relatively well adjusted by the adults who have close contact with them. The sample was made up, however, of a diverse range of perceived degree of adjustment. Thus the mean scores on the B-P, which has a possible range of 10-50, with a higher score being theoretically indicative of greater psycho-social adjustment, was 38.1, 35.7, and 36.3 as rated by father, mother, and teacher respectively. The ranges, again by father, mother, and teacher, were 27-45, 28-43, and 24-48. Similarly, mean scores for behavior indicative of positive psycho-social functioning on the CBC (possible range of 0-27 with increased score being associated with increased functioning) were 17.5, 17.1, and 10.8 with ranges of 3-24, 8-23, and 4-24. Means for cumulative scores indicative of poor psycho-social adjustment on the CBC (possible range of 0-25, higher score associated with poorer functioning) were 5.2, 4.3, and 3.7 with ranges of 0-20, 0-14, and 0-16. The mean scores by teachers on the AML (possible range of 43-215, higher score associated with poorer functioning) was 70.4 with a range of 45-121.

Important to note is that though father, mother, and teacher ratings of the children's adjustment appear to be relatively similar, direct correlations between these measures reveal in fact a mixed pattern of reliability. Thus Table 4 shows that fathers' and mothers' positive

Table 4. Correlations between fathers', mothers', and teachers' ratings of children's psycho-social adjustment.

	Positive Adjustment				Negative Adjustment			
	Father	B-P Mother	Teacher	CBC Positive Father Mother Teacher	Father	CBC Negative Mother Teacher	Teacher	AML Teacher
B-P								
Father		.44	.07	-.20	.77@	.02		
Mother			.63	-.13	.21	.24	-.31	-.44
Teacher				-.08	-.13	.67**	-.54*	-.64**
							-.80@	-.89@@
CBC								
Father				-.27	.33		.56	.23
Mother					-.18		-.06	-.12
Pos. Teacher							-.31	-.60
CBC								
Father							.70@	.68**
Mother							.46	.50
Neg. Teacher								.89@@

\*p<.05

\*\*p<.02

\*\*\*p<.01

@p<.004

@@p<.001

ratings of their sons' adjustment agree to a statistically significant extent only across one measure, that is between the fathers' B-P and mothers' CBC Positive (.77,  $p < .004$ ). When comparing mothers' B-P with fathers' CBC Positive, or mothers' CBC Positive with fathers' CBC Positive, we in fact find negative correlations (-.13 and -.27 respectively). Thus the mothers and fathers in the present sample indeed perceived their children rather differently. This could be accounted for by different perceptual styles between the mothers and fathers (Messé, et al., 1978), different amounts of exposure to their children in different situations, the children behaving differently with each parent, or an interaction between several or all of these possibilities.

Agreement between parents and teachers was also mixed, being most reliable between fathers' and teachers' ratings of the children's negative behaviors (e.g. fathers' and teachers' CBC Negative ratings correlated .70 ( $p < .03$ )). Again, similarity in perceptual styles, similarity in the children's behaviors towards these adults--perhaps experiencing both in authoritative, disciplinarian roles--or an interaction between both of these factors could account for this high correlation coefficient.

Equally important is the rather perplexing pattern of reliability across rating scales purporting to measure similar dimensions of children's psycho-social adjustment.

Thus only teachers' B-P significantly correlated with teachers' CBC Positive (.67 ( $p < .02$ )), while fathers' B-P correlated slightly negatively with fathers' CBC Positive (-.20). Fathers', mothers', and teachers' B-Ps do correlate significantly negatively, however, with fathers', mothers' and teachers' CBC Negative as expected (-.70 ( $p < .01$ ), -.55 ( $p < .05$ ), -.80 ( $p < .003$ ) respectively). Fathers' and mothers' CBC Positive tended to positively correlate with their CBC Negative (.43, .50), though this could be due to merely an awareness of both the children's positive and negative behaviors.

These findings clearly warn against using a single inventory to measure a characteristic. They also, however, point out the problem of assuming that using several inventories to measure the same dimension necessarily makes the results more valid. Another possibility here is that high psycho-social competence is not a global, uniform trait but instead is made up of separate, interrelated or independent characteristics. Thus a child could be competent in some areas and not in others, with the inventories tapping different areas.

Nonetheless, the relatively inconsistent scores across inventories and across fathers', mothers', and teachers' ratings necessitated treating the scores independently in the data analysis rather than combining them to form a singular, global scores of the children's psycho-social adjustment.



Parents' Perceptions of Their Caregiving Behaviors: Table 5 shows the means, standard deviations, and ranges of scores obtained from father and mother self ratings of their caregiver attitudes and behaviors on the 3 factors of the CRPB and the two composite scores of the CRCP. Thus, for example, along the Acceptance-Rejection factor of the CRPB (possible range 24-72, higher score associated with rejection and considered ineffective caregiver behavior) the mean scores for fathers and mothers were 41.30 and 36.30, with standard deviations of 4.3 and 3.7, and ranges of 35-47 and 31-41 respectively. As can be seen, the present sample was comprised of parents who described themselves as fairly effective caregivers in terms of the factors assessed by the CRPB and CRCP, though here too the degree of ascribed effectiveness is quite diverse.

Noteworthy here is the general similarity of maternal and paternal self perceptions, though the mothers tended to present themselves as being more accepting on the CRPB and exhibiting more positive and less negative parenting behaviors on the CRCP.

Parents' Perception of Their Caregiving Behaviors and Children's Psycho-social Adjustment: Table 6 presents the correlation coefficients between parental reports of their caregiving behaviors and parent/teacher ratings of the children's adjustment. It is clear the results are highly variegated.

Table 5. Means, standard deviations, and ranges of fathers' and mothers' perceptions of their caregiving behaviors.

Rater	Inventory				
		CRPB		CRCP	
	Acptnc-Rejctn*	Autnmy-Contrl**	Lax-Firm***	Postv@	Negativ@@
Father $\bar{X}$ = 41.30	42.50	41.10	100.00	81.20	
SD = 4.30	3.60	4.90	14.60	19.60	
Range = 35-47	36-46	33-48	81-120	48-119	
Mother $\bar{X}$ = 36.30	42.70	41.40	108.70	73.80	
SD = 3.70	3.70	4.80	8.30	25.50	
Range = 31-41	36-46	32-45	98-125	42-121	

\*24-72 possible, higher score signifies ineffective behaviors.

\*\*16-48 possible, higher score signifies effective behaviors.

\*\*\*16-48 possible, higher score signifies ineffective behaviors

@28-140 possible, higher score signifies effective behaviors

@@39-195 possible, higher score signifies ineffective behaviors.

Table 6. Correlations between parents' perceptions of their caregiving behaviors and ratings of children's psycho-social adjustment.

	Positive Adjustment				Negative Adjustment			
	B-P		CBC Positive		CBC Negative		AML	
	Father	Mother	Teacher	Father	Mother	Teacher	Father	Teacher
<u>CRCP</u> <u>Postv</u> <u>Crgvng</u> CRPB	Fa Postv	.77**	.69**	.08	.64*	.21	-.28	-.37
	Mo Postv	.23	.67**	.22	.15	.11	-.09	-.37
	Fa Autnmy	.20	.49	.63*	-.49	.25	-.31	-.74**
	Mo Autnmy	-.29	-.25	.33	-.36	-.50	-.28	-.32
<u>CRCP</u> <u>Negtv</u> <u>Crgvng</u> CRPB	Fa Negtv	-.26	-.11	.04	-.30	-.44	.09	.11
	Mo Negtv	-.03	-.23	-.36	.36	.25	.39	.51
	Fa Rejctn	-.46	-.68**	-.20	-.26	-.15	.26	.42
	Mo Rejctn	-.16	-.27	-.36	-.20	-.05	.05	.32
	Fa Lax	-.09	-.05	.22	.45	.11	.18	-.09
	Mo Lax	-.33	.27	.52	.28	-.25	.31	-.23

\*p<.02  
\*\*p<.01

The composite score of the various factors of the CRCP theoretically indicative of positive paternal caregiving behaviors did indeed correlate significantly in the expected direction with fathers' and mothers' ratings of high adjustment using the B-P (.77 ( $p < .005$ ), .69 ( $p < .01$ )) and mothers' ratings on the CBC Positive (.64 ( $p < .02$ )). This same composite score for effective maternal caregiving behaviors also correlated positively with competent child functioning as measured by the mothers' B-P ratings (.67 ( $p < .02$ )). Furthermore, there was a positive relationship between teacher ratings of high adjustment and fathers who perceived themselves as fostering autonomy (.63 ( $p < .03$ )), as well as a negative relationship between such paternal behaviors and teacher ratings of low adjustment (-.70 ( $p < .02$ ) on the CBC Negative, -.74 ( $p < .02$ ) on the AML). In general, positive parental behaviors correlated negatively with every measure of low child adjustment, though most of these correlations were small.

Parental reports of theoretically ineffective caregiver behaviors tended to negatively relate to ratings of high psycho-social adjustment, while positively relating to ratings of poor adjustment, though here again the relationships were small.

Of the specific factors of caregiving behaviors on the CRCP the most consistent pattern of correlations was between maternal reports of giving extrinsic rewards for

desired behavior (assumed to be an ineffective caregiver response) and ratings of low psycho-social functioning. Thus this factor correlated positively with every rating of poor child functioning, correlating .59 ( $p < .07$ ) with fathers' CBC Negative, .72 ( $p < .02$ ) with mothers' CBC Negative, .89 ( $p < .001$ ) with teachers' CBC Negative, and .81 ( $p < .004$ ) with teachers' AML. Admittedly, given the small number of subjects in the current sample, this could be accounted for by one mother who loaded high on this factor and whose child happened--for a myriad of reasons other than his mother's tendency to give him extrinsic rewards for desired behavior--to be rated low on psycho-social adjustment. Nonetheless, the finding was indeed an interesting one.

Another more general pattern was found in the positive correlations between effective paternal behaviors, as assessed by the CRCP, and ratings of high child functioning. Thus fathers' reports of expressing pride in their children correlated .70 ( $p < .01$ ) with fathers' B-P, .57 ( $p < .04$ ) with mothers' B-P, and .80 ( $p < .002$ ) with mothers' CBC Positive, while inexplicably correlating -.22 with fathers' CBC Positive and not correlating significantly with any of the teachers' ratings of positive psycho-social functioning.

Children's Perceptions of Their Parents' Caregiving Behaviors: Table 7 presents the means, standard deviations,

Table 7. Means, standard deviations, and ranges of children's perceptions of their parents' caregiving behaviors.

Person Rated		Inventory		
		Acceptance-Rejection*	CRPB Autonomy-Control**	Lax-Firm***
Father	$\bar{X} = 32.50$		36.00	36.20
	SD = 5.90		8.50	4.70
	Range = 26-45		22-48	28-42
Mother	$\bar{X} = 32.50$		36.90	35.90
	SD = 6.76		8.90	4.80
	Range = 25-44		20-48	29-43

\*24-72 possible, higher score signifies ineffective behaviors.

\*\*16-48 possible, higher score signifies effective behaviors.

\*\*\*16-48 possible, higher score signifies ineffective behaviors.

and ranges of children's perceptions of their parents' caregiving behaviors on the 3 orthogonal dimensions of the CRPB. As can be seen, the children in the present study generally viewed their parents as exhibiting behaviors assumed to be effective, though a wide spectrum of perceptions existed. Mothers and fathers were viewed nearly exactly the same, though this in part could be due to the children not wanting to give the impression of liking one parent better than the other.

The present results support the research of Michaels, et al. (1977) in finding that the children perceived their parents to be more accepting, while also more psychologically controlling, than the parents viewed themselves. Furthermore, they experienced their parents as exhibiting more firm control than the parents reported.

Children's Perceptions of Their Parents' Caregiving Behaviors and the Children's Psycho-social Adjustment: As

Table 8 shows, the relationship between the children's perceptions of theoretically effective and ineffective caregiving behaviors exhibited by their parents, and various ratings of the children's competence was to some extent contradicted expectations. For example, it was indeed surprising to find that children's perceptions of their parents as rejecting correlated positively with parent ratings indicative of good adjustment (children seeing fathers as rejecting correlated .50 ( $p < .07$ ) and .67 ( $p < .02$ ) with

Table 8. Correlations between children's perceptions of their parents' caregiving behaviors and ratings of children's psycho-social adjustment.

Children's Perceptions of Caregiving	Positive Adjustment				Negative Adjustment		
	Father	B-P Mother	Teacher	Father	CBC Positive Mother	CBC Negative Mother	AML Teacher
<u>Postv</u> <u>Crgvng</u>	Fa Autnmy	.11	.44	.53	-.67**	.09	.15
	Mo Autnmy	.37	.70***	.48	-.66*	.40	.04
<u>Negtv</u> <u>Crgvng</u>	Fa Rejctn	.50	.67**	.04	-.42	.31	-.10
	Mo Rejctn	.60**	.81@	.18	-.44	.39	-.13
	Fa Lax	-.32	.23	.71***	.07	-.28	.59
	Mo Lax	.02	.40	.83@	-.26	.12	.38

\*p<.05  
\*\*p<.03  
\*\*\*p<.01  
@p<.002



fathers' B-P and mothers' B-P; children seeing mothers as rejecting correlated .60 ( $p < .03$ ) and .81 ( $p < .002$ ) with fathers' B-P and mothers' B-P). Furthermore, the table reveals that fathers and mothers perceived as rejecting negatively correlated with all measures of low psychosocial adjustment.

Building on Michaels', et al.'s (1977) reasoning, it could be that the more competent children in the present study had less need to deny the existence of the relatively few rejecting behaviors their parents displayed, since these children felt psychologically safe enough in their relationships with their parents to be candid about their perceptions of them. Parents did not have to be idealized but could be seen as they were.

Children's perceptions of their parents as exhibiting lax control--behaviors assumed to be characteristic of ineffective parenting--were also unexpectedly positively correlated with teacher ratings of high psychosocial competence (children perceiving fathers as lax correlated .71 ( $p < .01$ ) with teachers' B-P, while their perception of mothers being lax correlated .83 ( $p < .001$ ) with teachers' B-P). This factor was also negatively correlated to most of the teachers' ratings of poor adjustment. Here again, these results could be explained by assuming that the relatively low degree of perceived laxness in the present sample of generally well functioning children were not

sufficient of hinder positive psychological development. In fact, the children might have experienced such laxness as a validation of their ability to make choices for themselves and a valuing of their autonomy.

### Dependent Measures

Category Usage: Table 9 presents the means, standard deviations, and minimum-maximum occurrences--rank ordered by frequency of usage--for the 9 fantasy categories that were scored, 8 by way of frequency counts and one using a composite of rating scale items. Mean category usage of these dimensions assessed by frequency counts was based on the average scores of the two independent raters, summed across the three WVT sessions.

Clearly, aggressive acts ( $\bar{X} = 51.15$ ) were far more prevalent than any of the other categorized behaviors, being five times more frequent than benevolent acts ( $\bar{X} = 10.25$ ) which was the next most prevalent category used. Previous studies have found that "permissiveness" of aggression by an adult experimenter increased fantasy aggression (Pintler, 1945; Siegel, 1957; Siegel and Kohn, 1959). Perhaps this phenomenon contributed to the high degree of aggression in the present investigation.

Construction, Dominance, and Adequacy occurred with roughly equal frequency ( $\bar{X} = 5.95$ ,  $\bar{X} = 5.80$ ,  $\bar{X} = 5.35$  respectively), and though in absolute terms they did not

Table 9. Means, standard deviations, and minimum-maximum occurrences of fantasy play categories.

Category	$\bar{X}$	S.D.	Minimum-Maximum Occurrence
Aggression	51.15	25.27	16-81
Benevolence	10.25	5.53	1.5-20
Construction	5.95	5.17	0-16
Dominance	5.80	6.12	0-17.5
Adequacy	5.35	5.25	0-16.5
Assertion	.75	.83	0-2
Submission	.70	1.27	0-3.5
Dependency	.40	.70	0-2
Propensity for Imaginative Play*	31.30	9.95	20-47.5

\*Based on composite scores of several rating scale items; 12-48 possible score range, higher score signifies greater propensity.

occur often, they indeed occurred much more frequently than Assertion, Submission, and Dependence ( $\bar{X} = .75$ ,  $\bar{X} = .70$ ,  $\bar{X} = .40$ ). Clearly, these last three categories occurred infrequently.

As can be seen, Propensity for Imaginative Play--a composite score of several rating scale items--had a mean of 31.30, a standard deviation of 9.95, and a range of 20-47.5 (a rating of 12-48 was possible, with higher score being indicative of greater propensity).

These ratings reflect the diversity of the kind of fantasy play engaged in by these children in the sandbox context and the differences in their proclivity to do so.

Changes Across the 3 WVT Sessions: A Student's T-test was performed to determine if there was a significant difference between the 3 WVT sessions across any of the relevant dimensions (see Appendix H). Computations revealed no significant differences between sessions on any of the categories. The highest significance level reached was  $p < .30$ , occurring when comparing the amount of Adequacy responses between the first and third WVT.

These findings are in contrast to previous research that found aggression to increase across fantasy play sessions e.g., Bach, 1945; Hollenberg and Sperry, 1956; Sears, 1951), although the play contexts were not the same as the present study, i.e. the Ss in this study were limited

to the sandbox and the miniature objects.

Table 10 presents the means, standard deviations, and minimum-maximum occurrences for the frequency of the various categories across the 3 WVT sessions. It can be seen that despite differences not being statistically significant, the occurrence of aggression decreased over the sessions while Benevolence, Construction, and Adequacy increased. Also, the general propensity to engage in imaginative play increased.

When delineating Aggression and Benevolence into their component subcategories--as is shown in Table 11--we find that Distant Physical, Direct Physical, Accidents, and to a lesser extent Devouring acts made up most of the Aggression score, while Helping behaviors made up by far most of the Benevolence score. In fact, according to the raters, no act of Physical Benevolence (e.g. hugging, kissing, etc.) occurred in any of the 3 WVT sessions, while only one rater scored one act of Verbal Benevolence (e.g. complimenting) having occurred in sessions 2 and 3. There appeared to be a trend toward decreasing expression of direct aggression (e.g. Devouring, Direct Physical, Distant Physical), with a concomitant increase in more symbolic ways of expressing aggression through Accidents. At the same time, Helping behaviors increased across the 3 sessions.

Table 12 shows the means, standard deviations, and minimum-maximum use of human, animal and transportation

Table 10. Means, standard deviations, and minimum-maximum occurrences for categories across the 3 WWT sessions.

Category	WWT 1	WWT 2	WWT 3
Aggression	$\bar{X}$ = 20.50 SD = 25.13 Min-Max = 0-72	17.40 23.68 0-66.5	13.60 16.00 0-47
Benevolence	$\bar{X}$ = 2.20 SD = 2.99 Min-Max = 0-8.5	4.00 5.90 0-19	4.05 4.90 0-16.5
Construction	$\bar{X}$ = 1.80 SD = 3.20 Min-Max = 0-10	1.90 2.31 0-5.5	2.25 2.94 0-6
Dominance	$\bar{X}$ = 1.95 SD = 2.67 Min-Max = 0-8.5	2.25 3.56 0-12	1.60 2.10 0-6.5
Adequacy	$\bar{X}$ = .70 SD = .62 Min-Max = 0-3	1.25 1.25 0-6.5	1.45 2.25 0-14.5
Assertion	$\bar{X}$ = .15 SD = .33 Min-Max = 0-2	.10 .29 0-1.5	.13 .27 0-1.5
Submission	$\bar{X}$ = .40 SD = 1.10 Min-Max = 0-3.5	.10 .32 0-1	.20 .63 0-2
Dependency	$\bar{X}$ = .15 SD = .34 Min-Max = 0-1	.10 .32 0-1	.15 .34 0-1
Propensity for Imaginative Play	$\bar{X}$ = 9.35 SD = 5.01 Range* = 4-16	10.55 4.13 5-15.5	11.40 2.54 7.5-16

\*4-16 possible on each WWT session.

Table 11. Means, standard deviations, and minimum-maximum occurrences for the sub ategories of Aggression and Benevolence.

Session	Devouring	Direct Physical	Distance Physical	Accident	Verbal Malevolence	Social Malevolence	Deprivation	Abandonment
WVT 1	$\bar{X} = 2.05$	5.35	7.80	4.00	.50	.30	.15	0
	SD = 3.85	4.46	10.36	4.06	1.58	.48	.34	0
	Min-Max = 0-12	0-13.5	0-27	0-12.5	0-.5	0-1	0-1	0
WVT 2	$\bar{X} = 1.20$	3.75	4.70	6.85	.10	.50	.20	.10
	SD = 2.11	4.97	5.56	9.34	.21	.82	.35	.32
	Min-Max = 0-6.5	0-13.5	0-14	0-28	0-.5	0-2	0-1	0-1
WVT 3	$\bar{X} = 1.05$	3.95	2.80	4.70	.20	.60	.30	0
	SD = 1.75	4.17	5.00	4.00	.42	.81	.35	0
	Min-Max = 0-5.5	0-11	0-15	0-11.5	0-1	0-1	0-1	0
Session		Physical Benevolence		Verbal Benevolence	Helping	Affiliative Acts	Satisfying Experiences	
WVT 1	$\bar{X} = 0$	0		0	1.95	.25	0	
	SD = 0	0		0	2.36	.63	0	
	Min-Max = 0	0		0	0-6.5	0-2	0	
WVT 2	$\bar{X} = 0$	0		.05	3.15	.70	.10	
	SD = 0	0		.16	4.71	.82	.21	
	Min-Max = 0	0		0-.5	0-16	0-2	0-.5	
WVT 3	$\bar{X} = 0$	0		.05	3.70	.20	.10	
	SD = 0	0		.16	4.08	.35	.32	
	Min-Max = 0	0		0-.5	0-14	0-1	0-1	

Aggres-  
sion

Benevo-  
lence

Table 12. Means, standard deviations, and minimum-maximum occurrences for objects used in the 3 WVT sessions.

Object Category	$\bar{X}$	SD	Minimum-Maximum
Human	43.7	42.06	2-145
Animal	59.8	55.62	13-191
Transportation	42.0	23.61	6-85



figures across the 3 WVT sessions. As can be seen, animal figures were more often used by the children in the current study than human or transportation objects, though here again there was a great diversity in the numbers used by different children. When inter-correlating the use of these three groups of objects, we find no statistically significant relationship (Table 13).

Inter-relationships Between Categories of Fantasy Behaviors:

As Table 14 shows, the various categories of fantasy behaviors were by no means independent and mutually exclusive. Dimensions that would appear to be in polar opposition were in fact correlated, i.e. Aggression and Benevolence (.64,  $p < .02$ ). Thus it would appear that the children in the current study often manifested seemingly bi-polar behavior rather than simply exhibiting a predominance of a single mode of fantasy play.

Caution must be taken in interpreting the interesting correlation between Dependency and Dominance (.83,  $p < .002$ ), Assertion (.77,  $p < .005$ ), and Aggression (.64,  $p < .02$ ), since the mean frequency of Dependent behaviors was only .40 across all 3 sessions, and occurred maximally only twice. Thus these high correlations appear to be due to a single child who happened to display the few Dependency behaviors while also exhibiting Dominance, Assertion, and Aggression.

Table 13. Inter-correlations between categories  
of objects used.

Object Category	Human	Animal	Transportation
Human	1.00	-.19	.23
Animal	-.19	1.00	.29
Transportation	.23	.29	1.00

Table 14. Correlations among fantasy play categories.

Category	Benw/lnc	Constrctn	Damnc	Adqucy	Assrtn	Submssn	Depndncy	Prpnsty
Aggression	.64**	-.22	.75***	.73***	.68**	-.11	.64**	.92@
Benevolence		-.09	.20	.69**	.11	-.04	.14	.58*
Construction			-.23	-.08	-.29	.15	.11	.03
Dominance				.34	.91@	-.09	.83***	.76***
Adequacy					.45	-.19	.38	.75***
Assertion						-.21	.77***	.70***
Submission							-.22	-.12
Dependency								.77***

\*p .05  
 \*\*p .02  
 \*\*\*p .006  
 @p .001

Also of interest is the surprisingly small relationship between Construction and all other categories. This too could be due to one or two children who exhibited most of the Construction behaviors while manifesting few other behaviors and playing in what the raters assessed to be a relatively unimaginative way (Construction correlated .03 with Propensity for Imaginative Play).

When delineating the Aggression and Benevolence composite scores into their subcategories and inter-correlating these, interesting patterns arise. Thus Table 15 seems to suggest two different patterns of aggressive behaviors, in that Devouring and Direct Physical are highly correlated (.91,  $p < .001$ ) while being negatively correlated with Distant Physical (-.33 and -.25). Similarly, there is little relationship between Helping and Affiliative Acts (-.08), suggesting that these behaviors also make up separate dimensions of play and are not components of a singular factor. Thus children in the present investigation who engaged in benevolent behaviors by way of helping behaviors did not necessarily engage in make believe affiliative actions or physical or verbal benevolence.

The high correlation between Accident and Helping (.91,  $p < .001$ ) reveals that the children in the present study strongly tended to have Helping behaviors occur concomitant with Accidents. This could be an important characteristic of the fantasy play of relatively well adjusted

Table 15. Inter-correlations between Aggression and Benevolence subcategories.

Subcategory	Devrmg	Drct Phys	Dstnc Phys	Acodnt	Vrbl Mal	Socl Mal	Helping	Affltv Acts
Propensity for Imaginative Play	.58*	.69***	.41	.60**	-.23	.11	.58*	-.09
Devouring		.91@	-.33	.10	.02	.02	.28	-.11
Direct Physical			-.25	.20	.003	.06	.31	.12
Distance Physical				.27	-.31	.26	-.02	-.02
Accident					-.02	.26	.91@	.09
Verbal Malevolence						.63*	.16	.42
Social Malevolence							.02	.55*
Helping								-.08

\*p .05  
 \*\*p .03  
 \*\*\*p .01  
 @p .001

non-clinic children. It also accounts for most of the positive relationship between Aggression and Benevolence (.64,  $p < .02$ ).

Children's Fantasy Play and  
Their Psycho-social Adjustment:

The relationship between the various measures of the children's psycho-social adjustment and dimensions of their fantasy play was highly varied and inconsistent, as Tables 16 and 17 reveal. That fathers, mothers, and teachers perceived and experienced that same child very differently again becomes clear through the discrepancies in the data. Thus, for example, while Aggression correlated positively with teachers' and fathers' BP and CBC Positive (measures of positive functioning), it correlated negatively with mothers' ratings on these same measures. Such discrepancies were also found in regards to Dominance, Adequacy, Assertion, and Propensity for Imaginative Play.

Inconsistencies between inter-measure reliability were also evident in contradictory patterns such as Dominance negatively correlating with fathers' BP while positively correlating with fathers' CBC Positive--inventories that supposedly measure the same traits. Such incongruencies compounded the difficulty of interpreting the data, though it is clear that no strong, consistent statistically significant trends in the relationship between the children's fantasy play and measures of their psycho-social



Table 16. Correlations between fantasy play categories and measures of psycho-social adjustment.

Fantasy Category	Positive Adjustment						Negative Adjustment			
	B-P		CBC Positive		CBC Negative		AML			
	Father	Mother	Teacher	Father	Mother	Teacher	Father	Mother	Teacher	
Aggression	.04	-.31	.22	.28	-.34	.51	-.36	-.28	-.03	-.20
Benevolence	.32	.11	.22	.36	.15	.51	-.15	-.09	.14	-.20
Construction	.03	-.27	-.11	.23	.47	.09	.34	.61**	.25	.20
Dominance	-.09	-.31	.34	.27	-.48	.24	-.36	-.27	-.21	-.25
Adequacy	-.04	-.10	.23	.04	-.20	.42	-.14	-.25	.01	-.08
Assertion	-.10	-.25	.46	-.11	-.44	.18	-.47	-.30	-.46	-.36
Submission	.47	.59*	.31	.24	.18	.46	-.38	-.54*	-.32	-.48
Dependency	.02	-.59*	-.02	.17	-.16	-.06	-.28	.09	.05	.09
Propensity for Imaginative Play	-.06	-.43	.24	.33	-.31	.49	-.25	-.15	.04	-.10

\*p .05

\*\*p .03



Table 17. Correlations between Aggression and Benevolence subcategories and psycho-social adjustment.

Fantasy Subcategory	Positive Adjustment						Negative Adjustment				
	Father	Mother	B-P	Teacher	Father	CBC Positive	Father	CBC Negative	Teacher	AML Teacher	
Devouring	-.05	.10		.54**	-.24	-.24	.50	-.38	-.50	-.45	-.39
Direct Physical	-.14	-.08		.42	-.08	-.23	.55**	-.17	-.29	-.24	-.24
Distance											
Physical	.06	-.53*		-.25	.37	-.37	.06	-.16	.008	.22	.15
Accident	.31	-.11		.04	.34	.11	.46	-.21	.002	.23	.12
Verbal											
Malevolence	.12	.51		.23	-.31	.01	-.23	-.02	-.14	-.28	-.23
Social											
Malevolence	.06	.42		.45	.02	-.37	.31	-.24	-.49	-.40	-.53*
Helping	.38	.09		.28	.29	.24	.50	-.25	-.03	.06	-.27
Affiliative											
Acts	-.12	.27		-.13	.28	-.27	.15	.33	-.26	.24	.10

Aggres-  
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olence

\*p .06  
\*\*p .05

adjustment were to be found in the present investigation. . Furthermore, trends that did appear often seemed to contradict previous research, e.g. Construction positively correlating with measures of low adjustment.

Children's Fantasy Play and Parents'

Perceptions of Their Caregiving Behaviors: Table 18 suggests no strong, consistent relationship between caregiving behaviors and the various measures of fantasy play used in the current study. A few correlations are in the expected direction, however, as in the negative relationship between mothers who reported manifesting rejecting behaviors toward their sons and benevolent behaviors in their sons' fantasy play. Furthermore, mothers' reports of fostering autonomy in their children positively related to dominant and assertive behaviors in the fantasy play.

Numerous unexpected relationships also were evident, for example the positive correlation between measures of theoretically ineffective paternal caregiving behaviors and construction themes in the children's fantasy play--themes that are hypothetically indicative of positive psycho-social functioning. That indices of effective paternal behaviors negatively correlated with Assertion and Propensity for Imaginative Play was also unexpected, as was the positive relation between Aggression and mothers' reports of fostering autonomy.

Table 18. Correlations between fantasy play categories and parents' perceptions of their caregiving behaviors.

Fantasy Category	"Positive" Parenting				"Negative" Parenting					
	CRCP		CRPB		CRCP		CRPB			
	Fa	Mo	Fa	Mo	Fa	Mo	Fa	Mo	Fa	Mo
	Postv	Postv	Autnmy	Autnmy	Negatv	Negatv	Rejctn	Rejctn	Lax	Lax
Aggression	-.13	-.39	-.15	.54	.10	-.11	.14	-.16	-.11	-.12
Benevolence	.44	.07	.10	-.09	.01	.41	-.24	-.50	-.07	-.14
Construction	-.02	-.08	-.04	-.31	.51*	.19	.43	.37	.75@	.41
Dominance	-.45	-.14	-.26	.54**	.52*	-.27	.14	-.27	-.07	.12
Adequacy	-.05	-.25	-.14	.33	-.16	.09	.38	-.01	-.10	.15
Assertion	-.52*	-.17	-.07	.69**	.40	-.37	.32	-.19	-.18	.14
Submission	.51	.45	.18	-.28	-.37	-.31	-.51	.28	.54*	.30
Dependency	-.51	-.28	-.53*	.31	.32	.01	.47	.01	.02	.01
Propensity for Imaginative Play	-.32	-.27	-.29	.40	.11	.07	.34	-.07	.14	.07

\*p .06

\*\*p .01

@p .006

Of more general importance seems to be the different effects the same behaviors can have when manifested by the father or mother. Thus fathers fostering autonomy tended to relate negatively with aggression in the play, while mothers fostering autonomy related positively to aggression. Similarly, theoretically ineffective caregiver behaviors in fathers were positively related to dominance in the children's play, while such fantasy behaviors were negatively related to theoretically ineffective caregiver behaviors in mothers.

When the CRPB Positive and Negative composite scores were differentiated into the factors making them up and related to the fantasy play, only a few relationships reached statistical significance at the  $p < .05$  level (see Appendix I). These were as follows: Fathers' concern with aggression (a theoretically positive attribute) correlated  $-.62$  ( $p < .03$ ) with Dependency; fathers' stressing intrinsic rewards for pro-social behaviors (theoretically effective behavior) correlated  $.58$  ( $p < .04$ ) with Benevolence; fathers' use of inductive discipline (considered effective parenting) correlated  $.65$  ( $p < .02$ ) with Submission; mothers' showing pride in their children (assumed effective) correlated  $-.66$  ( $p < .02$ ) with Aggression,  $-.76$  ( $p < .005$ ) with Dominance,  $-.73$  ( $p < .008$ ) with Assertion, and  $-.55$  ( $p < .05$ ) with Propensity for Imaginative Play; fathers being rejecting and taking pro-social behaviors for granted (both considered

ineffective) correlated  $-.57$  ( $p < .04$ ) and  $-.60$  ( $p < .03$ ) with Construction.

In relating the Aggression and Benevolence subcategories with the perceived caregiver behaviors, four relationships reached statistical significance at the  $p < .05$  level (see Appendix J). These were Direct Physical with fathers being rejecting ( $.55$ ,  $p < .05$ ), Verbal Malevolence with fathers being lax ( $-.69$ ,  $p < .01$ ), Social Malevolence with mothers exhibiting ineffective parenting skills ( $.57$ ,  $p < .04$ ), and Helping with mothers being rejecting ( $-.55$ ,  $p < .05$ ). When these subcategories were related to the factors making up the global positive and negative parenting scores on the CRPB, the following significant relationships occurred (see Appendix J): fathers emphasizing intrinsic rewards for pro-social behaviors and Helping ( $.55$ ,  $p < .05$ ); fathers showing pride in their children and Distance Physical ( $-.59$ ,  $p < .04$ ); fathers taking pro-social behaviors for granted and Distance Physical ( $.56$ ,  $p < .05$ ); fathers not disciplining and Affiliative Acts ( $-.55$ ,  $p < .05$ ); mothers showing pride and Distance Physical ( $-.58$ ,  $p < .04$ ); mothers showing pride and Social Malevolence ( $-.55$ ,  $p < .05$ ); mothers criticizing and Social Malevolence ( $-.57$ ,  $p < .04$ ); mothers stressing external rewards for pro-social behaviors and Devouring ( $-.60$ ,  $p < .03$ ); mothers being rejecting and Helping ( $.60$ ,  $p < .03$ ); mothers shaming and Social Malevolence ( $-.56$ ,  $p < .05$ ); mothers shaming and Helping ( $.56$ ,  $p < .05$ ); mothers taking

pro-social behaviors for granted and Accident (.57,  $p < .04$ ); and mothers taking pro-social behaviors for granted and Helping (.55,  $p < .05$ ). Though many of the relationships here were in the expected direction, it is clear that many were not.

Children's Fantasy Play and Their Perceptions of Their Parents' Caregiving Behaviors: There again seems to be only minimal association between the children's perceptions of their parents' caregiving behaviors and the measures used to assess fantasy play in the current investigation, as is shown in Table 19.

The most important variable seemed to be fathers and mothers being perceived as rejecting, which correlated positively with Submission (.67,  $p < .02$  and .55,  $p < .05$  respectively) and negatively with Propensity for Imaginative Play (-.60,  $p < .03$  and -.66,  $p < .02$ ). This variable almost reached significance in relation to Aggression (-.50,  $p < .07$  for fathers and -.48,  $p < .08$  for mothers and Dependency (-.51,  $p < .07$  for fathers and -.54,  $p < .05$  for mothers thereby reaching adequate significance). While mothers being perceived as fostering autonomy predictively correlated negatively with Dependency (-.62,  $p < .03$ ), it unexpectedly also correlated negatively with Propensity for Imaginative Play (-.54,  $p < .05$ ).

The only relationship that reached statistical significance at the  $p < .05$  level when relating the Aggression

Table 19. Correlations between fantasy play categories and children's perceptions of their parents' caregiving behaviors.

Fantasy Category	"Positive" Parenting Children's Perceptions of Parents		"Negative" Parenting			
	Fa Autonomy	Mo Autonomy	Fa Rejecting	Mo Rejecting	Fa Lax	Mo Lax
Aggression	-.15	-.41	-.50	-.48	-.15	.05
Benevolence	-.13	-.05	-.37	-.25	-.22	.07
Construction	-.33	-.26	-.20	-.29	.13	.14
Dominance	-.15	-.44	-.47	-.40	.06	.10
Adequacy	-.15	-.22	-.38	-.40	-.19	.07
Assertion	.10	-.18	-.37	-.30	.11	.29
Submission	-.07	.11	.67***	.55*	.37	-.01
Dependency	-.45	-.62**	-.51	-.54*	-.23	-.12
Propensity for Imaginative Play	-.35	-.54*	-.60**	-.66***	.02	-.01

\*p .05

\*\*p .03

\*\*\*p .02

and Benevolence subcategories with the children's perceptions of their parents' caregiving behaviors was perceiving mothers as fostering autonomy with Distance Physical ( $-.58$ ,  $p < .04$ ).



## DISCUSSION

### Qualifications of Results

Number of Subjects: Clearly, the most limiting aspect of the current investigation for generalizability was the small number of children who participated. Indeed, conclusions about the relationship between caregiver behaviors, child psycho-social adjustment and fantasy play based on a sample of only 10 children must be made in very tentative, equivocal terms. The greatest liability here was that the results as a whole became highly vulnerable to the effects of any extreme. That is, strong, statistically significant relationships between variables could be due to a single, extreme rating on any dimension--caregiver behaviors, child psycho-social functioning, or fantasy play--rated by either of the parents, the teacher, or the child. Thus, for example, the significant relationship between Assertion and mothers fostering autonomy (.69,  $p < .01$ ) could be accounted for by a single child who exhibited a few fantasy assertive behaviors, while his mother perceived herself as manifesting many autonomy-fostering caregiver responses. This does not necessarily imply a strong general relationship between mothers' fostering autonomy and assertion in their children's fantasy play.

Characteristics of the Sample: The present sample consisted of 10, middle class, non-clinic referred boys who were perceived by their parents and teachers as psycho-socially functioning relatively well. In addition, the parents in the current study perceived themselves, and were perceived by their children, as exhibiting relatively effective caregiver behaviors. With such a normative sample, both in respect to the children's psycho-social adjustment and the parents' caregiver behaviors, effects between parenting styles, child functioning and fantasy play would have to be extremely strong for any inter-relationship to reach statistical significance in a consistently patterned way.

More subtle effects could be discerned by contrasting groups that were extreme on any of the three main dimensions. Thus selecting children who were rated on the highest and lowest ends of the competency continuum, or parents who reported and/or were perceived by their children as exhibiting the highest and lowest degrees of effective caregiver behaviors, or children who manifested extreme fantasy play behaviors, would have illuminated more clearly the relationships between these variables. Indeed, Baumrind's (1967; 1970) studies of the relationships between parenting styles and children's psycho-social adjustment followed such a design.

Lastly, the 10 subjects who agreed to participate in the present study were selected from 37 families who

initially volunteered. These families, in turn, were the only ones to respond to the 350 requests that were originally sent out through the elementary schools. Generalizability from such a select sample--likely not to be representative of the population as a whole--is indeed trepidaciously precarious.

Reliability of Measures: The sporadic, inconsistent reliability between fathers', mothers', and teachers' ratings of the children's competence, as well as the low inter-measure reliability between measures of competence, left ambiguous the degree of the children's adjustment and the validity of the measures for this concept.

More precise objectification would have been obtained by having trained raters observe the children in various settings to measure their degree of competence. Thus, for example, Baumrind (1967; 1970) had trained raters spend 2 weeks in the classrooms assessing the children's competence, comparing these ratings with the teachers' scores to determine the teachers' reliability.

More careful assessment of actual caregiver behaviors, again using trained raters making in vivo observations of the interactions between the parents and their children in various settings, would have indicated more clearly the parenting styles. An attempt in this direction was made by Sears, et al. (1953) in assessing maternal behaviors towards their children through direct observations of the mother-

child interactions in the playroom.

The World View Technique as a Means of Evoking Fantasy Play: Children's fantasy play in the current investigation was assessed using the Lowenfeld World View Technique. This approach was used due to its being an unusually good medium for tapping the nonverbal, analogic domain of childhood experiencing. It further allows for various means of objective scoring, while remaining relatively free of an overly intrusive, inhibiting, experimentally induced structuring. Yet these very properties of the technique which potentiate the elicitation of a phantasmagorical array of imaginative themes, perhaps have a profound influence on the nature of the play itself.

Jung (1968), Leary (1957), Sullivan (1953) and others have speculated on the existence of various levels of unconscious experiencing. Demarcating these as the "Personal" and "Collective" Unconscious (Jung, 1968), "Levels I - V" (Leary, 1957), or "Prototaxic" and "Parataxic" experiences (Sullivan, 1953), these theorists all postulated a hierarchical structure of the continuum between unconscious and conscious experiencing. Traditional psychoanalytic thought also makes an implicit assumption that latent unconscious content is subject to differing degrees of repression (Freud, 1953; Fenichel, 1945). Uniform to all of these theories is the idea that at the more primordial levels of the psyche, the structure of experience becomes more trans-

personal, universal, and alike. Individual issues give way to specie issues.

If, in fact, the WVT evokes these deeper regions of the psyche, as Bowyer (1970), Buhler and Carrol (1951), Kalf (1971), and Lowenfeld (1935; 1939) have speculated, then one would not expect significant differences in the Worlds of relatively well functioning individuals, for at these deeper levels we would expect the themes to be alike. From another perspective, it becomes clear that competence is not so much defined by what unconscious processes underlie the personality, but rather by how these processes are expressed and integrated into the personality. (The issue here essentially echoes the transition from the early id-oriented psychoanalytic thought (Freud, 1953; Fenichel, 1945) to the later ego-psychologies of Rappaport (1967), Hartmann (1958), and others.) It may well be that the WVT expresses the "what" of the unconscious more than the "how" of the ego.

Perhaps the WVT, in its propensity to evoke more id-laden fantasy play, is analogous to the Rorschach in reflecting more primitive layers of the personality, as opposed to the more structured, ego-fantasies elicited by the TAT (Allison, et al., 1968; Rabin, 1968). Indeed, we would expect more variation between the TAT stories of "normal" individuals than between their Rorschach responses (Allison, et al., 1968; Rabin, 1968).

In reviewing the past research on children's fantasy play, one realizes that the methods used to elicit the fantasies tended to evoke what could be considered more ego-oriented, higher order forms of fantasy. Thus Pitcher and Prelinger (1963), in their study of children's fantasy life, used the children's verbalized stories for their data. Verbalization--as has previously been pointed out--is a relatively high order level of ego functioning in children (Lewin, 1935; Piaget, 1937; Werner, 1948), and thus the nature of this form of fantasy is likely to be quite different from other fantasy expressions. Sears, et al. (1965) and Wowkanech (1977), in their research on imaginative play using a structured doll play technique, introduced a relatively explicit, well defined format which again would tend to elicit higher order forms of ego-oriented fantasy play. Even naturalistic observations of children's play, as done by Erikson (1950), Gould (1972), and Reif and Stollak (1972), could be observing a more ego based form of play since in the free and unstructured manipulation of the physical and social environment the child by necessity must make many subtle accommodations to the external reality. Thus, for example, the child must attend and accurately respond to many interpersonal cues from his/her peers if s/he is to continue playing with them. If s/he does not accurately gauge the degree of "fluctuating certainty" (Gould, 1972) of a playmate and introduces a fantasy theme that overwhelms

the other child, the now fearful playmate might stop playing. Such awarenesses and decisions are ego operations and thereby raise the level of play to a more ego-oriented form.

Few such restrictions exist in the WVT situation since the child need be only indirectly aware of the E, who attempts to be highly permissive and accepting of the child's behaviors. The minimal amount of physical and social reality demands inherent in the WVT, along with the use of a sandbox and miniature toys--truly the environment of the earliest forms of sensory-motor play--are likely to evoke the most regressive forms of play. Stated in Piagetian terms (Piaget, 1957), the WVT necessitates minimal accommodative responding and thereby allows for the maximization of assimilative behaviors. Clearly, research comparing children's fantasy play evoked by different means would help elucidate the question of different levels of "ego-oriented" and "id-oriented" fantasy and how such phenomena interact with different fantasy play mediums.

#### Relevance of Findings for Hypotheses

The expectation that there would be a positive relationship between high parental self reports on dimensions theoretically indicative of effective caregiving behaviors and high psycho-social adjustment in their children was partially confirmed. This relationship was stronger and more consistent for fathers, where several dimensions

reflective of positive parenting correlated positively with measures of child competence and negatively with indices of poor adjustment. Some specific caregiver behaviors had a stronger effect of child adjustment, most of these being in the expected direction. The overall pattern was variegated, however, lacking a consistent positive relationship between theoretically effective caregiving responses and competent child behaviors, and/or a prevailing negative relationship between theoretically ineffectual parenting and poor adjustment.

The finding in regard to children's perceptions of their parents' caregiving behaviors and the children's adjustment were in general antithetical to the initial predictions. There was an unexpected positive relationship between children's perception of both parents as rejecting and measures of high adjustment. This positive relationship also existed for perceptions of parents as being lax and one teacher rating of competence. Perceived parental fostering of autonomy related both positively and negatively to measures of competence, though it consistently correlated negatively with measures of low functioning, as was initially assumed.

Assessment of the various dimensions of the children's fantasy play also produced some unexpected results. There was no significant differences across the 3 WVT sessions on any of the measures used. This was in contrast to the



expected increase in aggression. On the contrary, the trend was for aggression to decrease, while fantasized helping behaviors, construction, adequacy, and propensity for fantasy play to increase. Furthermore, there was a decrease in the more primitive forms of aggression in conjunction with an increase in the more socialized forms.

The assumption that certain dimensions of fantasy play--specifically Benevolence, Construction, Adequacy, Assertion, Dominance, and Propensity for Imaginative Play--would be positively related to high psycho-social functioning, while Aggression, Submission, and Dependency would show a negative relationship, was not substantiated by the results of the current investigation. Indeed, there was no readily interpretable pattern of relationship between the children's fantasy play and their psycho-social adjustment. They appeared to be separate facets of the child's life space.

Similarly, there were few significant relationships between dimensions of the fantasy play and parents' perceptions of their caregiving behaviors. Though a few expected relationships were found, in general, the interrelational patterns were highly scattered and inconsistent, often contradicting the original assumption of a positive relationship between effective parenting behaviors and competent child fantasy play.

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What few significant effects that existed between children's perceptions of their parents' caregiving behaviors and the children's fantasy play tended to be supportive of the original hypotheses. Thus there was a positive correlation between children's perception of their parents as rejecting and fantasized Submission, as well as a negative relation with Propensity for Imaginative Play. The lack of stronger, more pervasive and consistent effects was in contrast, however, to initial expectations.

#### Relevance to Past Theory and Research

Implications for Caregiving Behaviors and Children's Psycho-social Adjustment: The current results only partially supported previous findings of a positive relationship between caregiver behaviors characterized by warmth, acceptance, clear delineation of limits, and fostering of autonomy, and high psycho-social competence in children (Baumrind, 1967; 1971; Becker, 1964; Coopersmith, 1967; Green, 1975; Hoffman, 1963; Lefkowitz, et al., 1963; Liberman, et al., 1971; Mussen, 1970; Sears, et al., 1957; Yarrow, et al., 1968). This inconsistency was also found for the specific caregiver factors delineated by Green (1975).

A more thorough discussion of the possible relationship between caregiver behaviors and children's competence is given in Appendix K. In explicating this possible relationship it is imperative to reiterate that caregiver

behaviors are only one of the multifarious factors effecting psycho-social adjustment. Yet it is clear that this factor in itself is immensely complex (see Appendix K). In light of this, it is not surprising that the results of the current investigation did not support the supposition that there exists a direct, consistent correspondence between caregiver behaviors and child psycho-social functioning. Indeed, if such a simple correspondence did exist, the controversy as to how best to parent would have ceased long ago, and the world would be burgeoning with individuals possessing exquisite psycho-social skills. Given the small number and relative homogeneity of the subjects in the present study, it was encouraging, if not remarkable, that the trends between caregiver behaviors and child functioning were as supportive of previous research as they were. Thus the current results do support, in a more global sense, the importance of caregiver acceptance, limit setting, and encouragement of autonomy in the formation of psycho-social competence.

More conclusively, the current findings point to the importance of the separate effects of paternal and maternal caregiving behaviors. The apparently stronger effects of paternal behaviors on the psycho-social adjustment of the children in the present study would seem to be congruent with psychoanalytic theory, since the present sample consisted of latency age boys who would theoretically be highly

influenced by their fathers due to their identification with them in the resolution of the Oedipal drama (Freud, 1953). There has been a recent interest in studying the effects of paternal behaviors on children's development (Lamb, 1976; Levine, 1978), a trend the current findings would certainly support.

Implications for Theories on The Nature and Function of Fantasy and Child Development: The current results often appeared to conflict with previous research on fantasy play in children. This discrepancy existed both for studies using the WVT as well as those using other approaches to elicit fantasy play.

The sharpest contrast between the current results and previous studies using the WVT was in the lack of association between aggression and poor psycho-social functioning (Bowyer, 1956; 1958; 1970; Buhler, 1951; Buhler and Carrol, 1951; Lumbry, 1951; Ridley, 1952). Furthermore, no relationship was found to exist between more "primitive" expressions of aggression and poor adjustment, as has been previously found (Bowyer, 1956; 1958; 1970; Buhler, 1951). Quite to the contrary, aggression was positively related to one measure of positive adjustment. The discrepancy here may in part be due to the lack of highly specific, operationalized criteria for what constituted "high aggression" in the previous studies. It was for this reason that the current investigation used frequency counts to discern the amount of

aggression, rather than more global rating scales.

Somewhat more corroborative of past research with the WVT was the apparent lack of the other "clinical signs" delineated by Buhler (1951), as would be expected since the present sample was made up of non-clinic referred children. There were no "Disorganized," "Rigid," or "Fenced" Worlds, though this assumption is based on the current author's subjective opinion since there was insufficient reliability for these measures in the present study. Object counts showed there was no "Unpeopled" Worlds, though some Worlds were made up of less than 5 object categories or 50 total objects --what Buhler (1951) referred to as "Empty" Worlds, also presumed to be a pathonomic sign.

The lack of relationship between aggression and poor psycho-social functioning was also antithetical to findings of other research on children's fantasy play using different means to elicit fantasy. These included structured doll play (Back, 1945; Isch, 1952; Levin and Wardwell, 1962; Sears, et al., 1947), stories told to stimulus pictures (Hartwell, et al., 1953), spontaneous stories (Buss, 1961; Kaplan, 1956), and free play situations (Gould, 1972).

As was previously discussed, the lack of congruency here could be due to the particularly regressive nature of the fantasy evoked by the WVT, in contrast to the more "ego-laden," reality determined play of these other approaches. Furthermore, there is a lack of a uniform, cross-study

criterion measure of "high" aggression. Thus, there may be a relatively broad continuum of normative fantasized aggression which is characterized by a relatively high magnitude of frequency and intensity, with a rather specific basal point which differentiates pathologic behavior. The relation could be a curvilinear one, with either extremely low or high amounts of fantasized aggression being related to poor adjustment. The lack of a significant relationship between fantasized aggression and adjustment in the present study could be accounted for by the fact that the discriminative criterion point for pathonomic aggression might be above and below the degree of aggression exhibited by the present sample of relatively well adjusted children.

The lack of a significant positive association between fantasized benevolence, assertion, dominance, construction, references to adequacy, and propensity for fantasy play with positive psycho-social functioning--as well as the lack of a negative relationship between adjustment and fantasized submission and dependency--was also in contrast to previous findings using various mediums of fantasy play (Gould, 1972; Hartwell, et al., 1953; Haworth, 1966; Meichenbaum and Goodman, 1971; Nahme-Huang, et al., 1976; Pitcher and Prelinger, 1963; Rosenhan, et al., 1974; Singer, 1973; Singer and Singer, 1976; Spivok and Levine, 1964; Wowkanech, 1977). Here again, there are no uniform, cross-study criteria for these dimensions, thus comparison

becomes difficult. As speculated for aggression, here too. there may be a wide spectrum of normative behaviors, with only the extremes--not found in the present sample--being indicative of positive and/or negative adjustment.

Nonetheless, the unexpectedly high amounts of fantasized aggression, and the relatively low amounts of benevolence, dominance, construction, adequacy, and assertion is dissonant with general assumptions of childhood development, particularly during the latency period (Erikson, 1953; Freud, 1936; Freud, 1953; Gould, 1972; Lewin, 1935; Murphy, 1962; Pitcher and Prelinger, 1963; Werner, 1948). These theoreticians speculate that such fantasized behaviors are both the expression of and the mechanisms by which the socialization of impulses occurs, being integrated, sublimated, and/or displaced. Such behaviors also presumably express the process towards autonomy, individuation, and mastery of the internal/external domain, as the child's burgeoning sense of self becomes more fully constellated.

Again, it may be that the high amount of aggression in the present study is due to the "id-evoking" characteristic of the WVT. Indeed, there are apparently no studies comparing the amount of fantasized aggression in different fantasy play techniques to help ascertain the validity of this assumption. Perhaps the more central issue here, however, is not what is evoked, but how it is dealt with. That is, the content of the play is perhaps secondary to



the process of the play, since process lies in the domain of ego while content is more expressive of unconscious concerns. Important to remember here is that competence is defined more by ego skills than the content of unconscious presses. Thus it becomes imperative to study the sequence of events rather than simply their occurrence. For example, a child whose fantasy play involves someone hitting someone else but then helping them is perhaps very different from a child who fantasizes someone is helping someone and then hits them, though the frequency count of helping and aggressive behaviors is the same in both cases.

Furthermore, the more general pattern of event occurrence--whether aggression increases or decreases during the session or across the 3 sessions--might also be indicative of high or low psycho-social functioning. Pertinent here was the slight tendency in the current investigation for aggression to decrease over the 3 sessions and be expressed in more socialized forms, while benevolence slightly increased. This pattern might be related to high adjustment, similar to the ability on the Rorschach to re-assert appropriate form-to-percept responding on the color cards after an initial slippage of distorting internal presses (Allison, et al., 1968; Rabin, 1968). Crucial here is the ego's ability to adaptively structure, transform, assimilate, and integrate affect laden, symbolically charged material. Thus it is in studying the miniscule, as well as more global,

delineations of the moment to moment sequencing of fantasized events that will likely lead to a clearer understanding of the characteristics of the fantasy play of highly competent and less competent children.

That there was no incidence of physical benevolence (i.e. fantasized hugging, kissing, etc.) or verbal benevolence (i.e. complimenting or stating affection) in any of the children's fantasy play in the present study is indeed surprising, perhaps even disheartening. But rather than being a direct comment on the children's experiencing of the world as an unloving, threatening place or revealing their lack of proclivity for expressing warmth and affection, this tendency might be more a reflection of the nature and function of fantasy per se. Thus in synthesizing the assumptions of numerous theorists who have speculated on the phenomenology of fantasy, it would appear that the essence of such play involves the repeated evocation, manipulation, and exploration of subjectively relevant, pressing, unresolved concerns in an attempt to understand and master these issues under a controlled situation that reduces novelty and complexity to a manageable degree (Freud, 1936; 1935; Griffiths, 1935; Klinger, 1971; Piaget, 1961; Singer, 1973; 1975).<sup>1</sup> Thus fantasy play presumably is oriented around potentially anxiety arousing material, rather than what the child is comfortable with. Assuming that relatively well adjusted children are not highly conflicted about

the expression of warmth and affection, it would be expected that aggression would predominate their play as a means of coping with the areas in which they do feel fearful, helpless, and powerless. A lack of appropriate aggression might in fact indicate a sense of being overwhelmed and an unwillingness to confront pressing matters (Bowyer, 1970). The consistently high level of aggression in the present study, therefore, could be interpreted as deriving from the functional attributes of fantasy play, rather than poor psycho-social adjustment or overbearing concerns with a world that is experienced as threatening and malevolent.

Development necessitates confrontation with novelty, since it involves the acquisition of hitherto non-existent schemas and ways of perceiving and responding. Such novelty can, depending on the degree, evoke stress and anxiety, which in turn can provoke an aggression response. Furthermore, fear, angst, dread, disappointment, pain, anger, and the various other states of psychological dis-safety are inherent to the human condition. Thus competence is perhaps better defined by the effectiveness of the stratagems one possesses to cope with the concerns and stresses of life, rather than the limitation or elimination of such feelings.

Concomitantly, effective parenting becomes characterized more by the encouragement of the development of adaptive means for dealing with novelty and stress rather than

simply its reduction. Clearly, the reasoning here is somewhat circular since it has been previously argued that the development of a wide range of effective coping skills can only occur within a relatively safe environment where the organism does not feel overwhelmed by threat. Thus parents need to minimize the threat experienced in the child's relationship to them so that the child can go on with the task of mastering the challenges posed by everyday living. Nonetheless, no form of parenting could, or in fact should, eliminate all the pains, strains, and stresses of growing up. It is these unavoidable feelings and concerns that will be expressed through fantasy play, one of our greatest tools for synthesis and adaptation.

Implications for Research Methodology  
and Directions for Future Research:

Some methodological problems that arose in the current investigation serve as a caveat for future research. Most notably, the highly divergent ratings between the mothers', fathers' and teachers' assessments of the children's psycho-social functioning bring to question the practice of combining such scores into one measure of adjustment. It appears that issues of interpersonal perceptual style, as elucidated by Messe, et al. (1979), as well as the different relationships these significant others have to the children at various developmental stages, confound attempts to establish an "objective" assessment of the children's adjustment.

Such objectification would seem to necessitate the use of trained raters for in vivo observations of the children. These observations would need to span across various facets of the children's lives, for it may well be that there is no "g-factor" (Cattell, 1971) of psycho-social competence and that competence is situationally determined. Thus a child's social behavior with peers might vary considerably from classroom to playground to home and across various activities within each of these locations. This could partially account for the relatively poor inter-measure reliability of the rating scales theoretically assessing competence. It could be that the items were in fact highlighting different, independent facets of competence. The relationship between the various traits that make up competence clearly need to be further studied.

The suggested rigorous, in vivo observations across a plethora of daily situations would also seem relevant to increasing the knowledge of the effects of caregiver behaviors on children's functioning. Indeed, it appears that none of the multitude of studies investigating parenting behaviors actually observed parents with their children in their natural environment across various situations over a prolonged period of time. Thus the edifices of theories of competence and the effects of parenting styles are presently built upon the terra non-firma of self-rating scales and brief playroom observations, rather than the thorough

assessment of behaviors occurring on the natural settings . which the theories purport to explain.

That such in vivo approaches are needed is made still clearer by the relatively poor inter-measure reliability of the instruments supposedly measuring similar dimension of psycho-social adjustment. Such low inter-measure reliability certainly cautions against using a single measure of a trait, as well as assuming that using multiple measures of a trait in and of itself increases reliability and validity. It further brings to light the liability of self-rating scales to idiosyncratic interpretations based upon phrasing--a mere change in the wording of an item can in fact dramatically change how the item is interpreted.

The apparently differing effects of maternal and paternal caregiving behaviors of the children in the present study warns against the previous convention of only studying maternal behaviors, as well as the more recent approach of clustering both parents together. It would seem to be imperative to explore the effects of each parent separately, both across various caregiver behavior variables and at different developmental stages of the child. This latter dimension is important since most dynamic theories of development assume that the mother and father become intrapsychically and interpersonally significant in different ways at various junctures of the growth process (Freud,

1953, Jung, 1956).

The orally administered rating scale purporting to assess the children's perceptions of their parents could well be contaminated by social desirability, recent impactful interactions with a parent (i.e. having just been scolded or allowed to do something special), and the child's own anxiety about experiencing the parents in certain ways. Thus a more unobtrusive method of assessing children's perceptions of their parents--perhaps via situational doll play as was used by Wowkanech (1977)--need be implemented. It would be interesting to compare Schaefer's (1965) more direct inventory, as used in the present study, with these other approaches.

In regards to research in the area of fantasy, the present investigation strongly suggests some necessary directions of exploration. Methodologically, it will be important to objectify criteria of assessing various dimensions of fantasy so that accurate cross-study comparisons can be made. Clearly there is still much work needed to be done to better discern what constitute the crucial dimensions of competent fantasy play in the first place.

Some of the current discrepant findings have been explained as being due to the more "id-laden" form of fantasy evoked by the WVT. This assumption of a gradient of fantasy levels being evoked by differing mediums or modes of play needs to be further tested. Thus it would be

important to explore the relationship between the structure and content of children's free play, story telling, structured doll play, Rorschach responses, Worlds, and other forms of imaginative activities. It may well be that children differ on their ability to use various forms of fantasy, being more drawn to specific modalities rather than simply being generally more or less imaginative.

The current findings further suggest that research on fantasy play, and particularly those using the WVT, needs to shift emphasis from content to process. The sequencing and moment-to-moment unfolding of events in the fantasy are likely to be more indicative of the child's ego integrative abilities than the specific amount of aggression, benevolence, or other behaviors per se. Microscopic assessment of the order of events is imperative for future studies if we are to broaden our base of knowledge on the relationship between fantasy and psycho-social competence.

The pivotal assumption of the current investigation, congruent with nearly all theories of fantasy, was that fantasy behaviors are a means of exploring and mastering central internal concerns--both in a defensive fashion of resolving past conflicts and in an expansive fashion of developing new schemas that increase the repertoire of potentially adaptive responses. This being such a crucial assumption in the literature on fantasy behavior, it is indeed astonishing to discover the paucity of research



attempting to empirically ascertain the accuracy of this . notion. Thus there are apparently no studies that explore in a specific, predictive manner, the play of children with overt, explicit situational concerns--such as an impending operation, a recent death of a significant other, or a divorce--to see if in fact such themes predominate their play. Furthermore, to what extent and in what ways does such play facilitate adaptive coping with these events? Do children who are given access and encouragement to engage in fantasy behaviors function more effectively? Clearly this is the axiomatic rational for play therapy, thus the question arises in what ways do the content, structure, and process of children's fantasy play change over the course of treatment and in relation to changes the child makes in his/her external environment? In addition, how do we free fantasy that is merely perseveratory defensive re-enactment of a trauma into an expansive integration and resolution of the event? It is these questions that must be addressed to hedge us closer in our understanding of the nature and function of fantasy--this magical domain at the interface of the conscious and unconscious, mirroring the unfathomable possibilities of our souls.

## FOOTNOTES

- <sup>1</sup>There is a need for research that further explores this assumed relationship between current concerns and fantasy play, in which the concerns would be specified--perhaps through experimental manipulation--and predictions as to the fantasy play would be tested. Though this has been attempted, with little success, in dream research, it has apparently not been explored using fantasy play.

## APPENDIX A

### Letters to Parents and Teachers

## APPENDIX A

### Letters to Parents and Teachers

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

Department of Psychology  
Olds Hall

East Lansing - Michigan 48824

Dear Parents:

My name is Yanon Volcani; I am a graduate student in psychology at MSU working with Professor Gary Stollak in studying the fantasy play of 7 to 9 year old boys. My project involves children using miniature figures and toys to create scenes in a small sandbox. Each child is brought to our facilities by myself for three, separate, one hour sessions at the child's and parents' convenience. Since I am also interested in parental attitudes and approaches to child rearing, as well as the child's general behavior in the world, I would also like parents to fill out some questionnaires on child rearing attitudes and practices and their perceptions of their child's behavior. These take roughly an hour to complete. Furthermore, before beginning the three play sessions I meet with each child at his home for an hour to ask him similar questions to those filled out by the parents on their questionnaires.

If you feel you and your child might be willing to participate in our research sometime between now and August, or else in the Fall, please return the enclosed postcard indicating that you are willing to receive a call from me (returning the card in no way commits you to participate in our research but only indicates your willingness to receive a call from me for a more detailed description). We have found that children readily take to the form of fantasy play we are studying and thus anticipate your child will thoroughly enjoy the experience. If you have any questions feel free to call me at 349-9408 or Professor Stollak at 353-8877. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Yanon Volcani

YV:GS:mss

Dear Teacher,

My name is Yanon Volcani. I am a graduate student in clinical psychology at Michigan State University working with Prof. Gary Stollak. My research involves exploring the relationship between children's fantasy, parenting style, and children's behaviors. It is in regards to this last area that I need your help. Previous studies have found that teachers are very accurate in judging their pupil's general social and emotional behaviors. Mr. and Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_ have been kind enough to allow \_\_\_\_\_ to participate in my study and have given their approval of your filling out, if you wish, the enclosed questionnaires on him (I've enclosed their permission slip). I realize you're very busy and thus I have tried to select inventories that will give me maximum information about the child's general social/emotional behaviors while minimizing your time involvement (the average time involved is roughly one hour). I would very much appreciate your cooperation in filling out the enclosed forms, mailing them back to me in the self addressed, stamped envelope when you're finished. If you have any questions feel free to call me at either my home (349-9408) or office (353-8877).

Sincerely yours,

Yanon Volcani

**APPENDIX B**

**Parent Information Form**

APPENDIX B

Parent Information Form

Code Number \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone No. \_\_\_\_\_

Present Address \_\_\_\_\_

Marital Status \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation \_\_\_\_\_ Years in Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

Highest Level of Education Completed (circle one):

elementary grade: 1 2 3 4 5 6

junior high school: 7 8 9

high school: 10 11 12

college: 1 year 2 years 3 years 4 years degree granted

M.A. degree

Ph.D. degree

other degrees or certificates (e.g., M.D., D.D.S., D.O., law  
or high school certificates indicating completion of  
vocational training):

Names and Ages of Children \_\_\_\_\_

Children's Grades in School \_\_\_\_\_

Other People in Household and Relationship to Children \_\_\_\_\_

Note: Only this questionnaire will contain your name. The checklists you will complete will contain only the code number noted in the upper right-hand corner. This questionnaire will be removed and kept in a separate locked file and your answers will be kept completely confidential.

## APPENDIX C

### Measures of Children's Psycho-social Adjustment



APPENDIX C

Measures of Children's Psycho-social Adjustment

B - P

Rating Scales

Name of Person Being Rated \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Rater \_\_\_\_\_

Date(s) Rated \_\_\_\_\_

FLEXIBILITY

The flexible person can shift his viewpoint or behavior in accordance with new information or new demands of the people. He is adaptive, but shifts because of conviction rather than because of passively submitting to persuasion. When changing he continues with the same degree of interest and involvement.

			<u>RATING</u>
F	W	S	
5			Very flexible. Adapts readily and easily to new information and demands. Participation continues with undiminished interest.
4			Very frequently flexible. Most of the time adapts although shows some tendency to persist even in the face of new information or new expectations.
3			Reasonably flexible, but often clings to his original viewpoint or behavior.
2			At times flexible, but usually unable to adapt to new information or demands.
1			Rigid. Very unresponsive to new information or demands. Cannot shift.

ACTIONS JUSTIFYING RATING

5

4

3

2

1

EAGERNESS

The eager person likes to try new things or take on a new problem. He is eager to overcome, to engage, and to try to master a new problem.

F      W      S			<u>RATING</u>
5			Loves challenge; eager to try anything that is new. Delights in testing his ability.
4			Frequently seeks out and meets new and challenging situations. Shows little hesitancy.
3			Often rises to a challenge that is presented to him, but does not seek out challenging situations of his own. Shows some hesitancy.
2			Tends to shy away from challenges much of the time, but will deal with them when encouraged.
1			Almost always shies away from challenge. Requires a great deal of encouragement, before he reluctantly tries.

ACTIONS JUSTIFYING RATING

—  
E

5

4

3

2

1

—

EFFECTIVENESS

The effective person copes appropriately. He readily tries and is successful in his efforts to implement his own desires or to meet the external demands of the environment.

F   W   S			<u>RATING</u>
5			Very effective. Always deals appropriately and successfully with his inner needs and external demands. Always meets and responds effectively to a problem situation.
4			Mostly effective. Typically gets his needs met and handles challenge successfully.
3			Moderately effective. Often successful, but often fails to get his needs met or to cope with problems with success.
2			Mostly ineffective. But occasionally successful in his efforts.
1			Rarely succeeds in his efforts. Inadequate. Ineffective.

ACTIONS JUSTIFYING RATING

AWARENESS OF SELF

The aware person (child or adult) knows how he or she feels, what he thinks, and what he is doing. Although he is conscious of himself, he is not self-conscious, insecure or embarrassed. This awareness does not produce anxiety. He accepts and can acknowledge how he really feels, thinks, and acts.

F   W   S			<u>RATING</u>
5			Very aware; always conscious of his feelings, wishes, fears, and the meaning of his behavior (positive or negative).
4			Most of the time aware, ready to acknowledge what he feels, thinks, and does. Only occasionally uses denial.
3			Often aware of his feelings, thoughts and behavior, and willing to recognize them as such. However, often reacts without awareness or uses denial.
2			Usually unconscious or unaware of himself; denies his real feelings and thoughts, and cannot recognize his own actions for what they are.
1			Unconscious; full of denial, completely unable to recognize his true feelings, thoughts, or behavior.

ACTIONS JUSTIFYING RATING

CONSIDERATENESS

The considerate person cares about the well-being of others. He adjusts his behavior in ways that are thoughtful and beneficial to others.

F      W      S			<u>RATING</u>
5			Extremely considerate. Always thoughtful and spontaneously concerned with the other person's welfare.
4			Very considerate. Most of the time he is thoughtful and deals constructively with others.
3			Somewhat considerate, but sometimes inconsiderate about what is good for another person.
2			Seldom considers the well-being of other people. Only rarely takes into account what others may feel. Tends to be thoughtless, indifferent.
1			Rarely considers the other person. Tends to pursue his behavior no matter how it may affect the other person.

ACTIONS JUSTIFYING RATING



TOLERANCE

The tolerant person recognizes and accepts individual differences. He accepts and gives full regard to others who have different feelings, thoughts, and reactions than his own. But he does not necessarily approve or yield to their influence.

F   W   S			<u>RATING</u>
5			Extremely tolerant. Understands and accepts differences as natural. Tolerates a very broad spectrum of feeling, thoughts, and behavior in others.
4			Reasonably tolerant about individual differences.
3			Mildly tolerant, but tends to not accept certain natural variations.
2			Usually intolerant. Tends to regard people who differ from him as being unacceptable, even wrong.
1			Very intolerant. His way of feeling, thinking, and reacting is the only way that he can accept. People who are different are completely unacceptable. Very narrow.

ACTIONS JUSTIFYING RATING

5

4

3

2

1

STABILITY

The stable person is emotionally balanced. He remains composed in the face of stressful events. He remains involved and does not find it necessary to shift his direction.

F    W    S			<u>RATING</u>
5			Very stable. Not easily upset by change or disappointment.
4			Usually stable. Accepts and adjusts well to changing circumstances, but occasionally loses his calmness and direction.
3			Moderately stable. Often retains his equilibrium, but rather easily upset and loses his direction.
2			Sometimes shows stability, calm and direction, but frequently is upset and loses his bearings when circumstances change.
1			Unstable. Shows little capacity to accommodate to change. Excitable or immobilized by new demands.

ACTIONS JUSTIFYING RATING

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F

5

4

3

2

1

---

SPONTANEITY

The spontaneous person is natural. His acceptance of himself is high and permits freedom of expression. He is uninhibited, but not dramatic or exhibitionistic.

F   W   S			<u>RATING</u>
5			Always highly spontaneous. Very natural and free in his expressions.
4			Very often spontaneous. Most of the time reacts freely and naturally, but on occasion is inhibited.
3			Usually spontaneous. While he frequently expresses himself naturally he is inhibited on many occasions.
2			Shows spontaneity on occasion, but more often inhibited, constricted, and stilted in his response.
1			Many strong inhibitions, very constricted. Almost never spontaneous; not natural.

ACTIONS JUSTIFYING RATING

SENSITIVITY TO OTHERS

The sensitive person is aware and concerned about the welfare of other people. He readily ascertains what the other person is feeling and what would be in their best interest.

F   W   S			<u>RATING</u>
5			Acutely aware and concerned about people's feelings and reactions.
4			Most of the time aware and concerned about how others are truly feeling and reacting.
3			Often aware and concerned, but in many instances seems unaware and relatively unconcerned about other people's feelings and reactions.
2			Usually unaware and disinterested in what other people are feeling, but can recognize what is going on in others when it is directly called to his attention.
1			Insensitive and unconcerned as to what is going on in and with other people. Deals with them as though they were devoid of feelings.

ACTIONS JUSTIFYING RATING

SELF-CONFIDENCE

The confident person believes that he is able and behaves with a calm assured manner. He is self-assured and realistic when coping with new challenges.

			<u>RATING</u>
F	W	S	
5			Realistically very confident. Approaches challenge with assurance. Possible failure does not deter action.
4			Confident most of the time with realistic challenges. Only mild caution with unfamiliar tasks.
3			While often confident, in many instances is unsure of his ability to cope with realistic challenge.
2			Some degree of confidence with familiar things, but often expects to meet with failure with challenge.
1			Virtually no self-confidence. Unable or unwilling to try. Almost always behaves as though he expects to fail with new challenges.

ACTIONS JUSTIFYING RATING

INTERPERSONAL COMPREHENSION

This trait assesses the person's understanding of how one person's behavior causes approval or disapproval of that behavior in another person.

F      W      S			<u>RATING</u>
5			Very high comprehension. Person almost always recognizes the effect of any given behavior.
4			Usually comprehends what the second person's reaction will be to the first person's behavior.
3			Sometimes perceives the interpersonal effects, but just as often fails to comprehend how one person's behavior affects another person's attitude.
2			Seldom comprehends interpersonal interaction. Usually at a loss in being able to see how one person's behavior affects another person's reactions.
1			Virtually no comprehension of how a person's behavior causes attitudes in other people. Almost always fails to comprehend the interaction.

ACTIONS JUSTIFYING RATING



## CHILDREN'S BEHAVIOR CHECKLIST FORM A

Name of child: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of person filling out checklist: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to child named above (mother, father, teacher, etc.): \_\_\_\_\_

This is a list of items describing many aspects of children's behavior—things that children do or ways they have been described by others. Not all of the items will apply to the particular child you are describing, but quite a few of them will. First, go through the list and put a checkmark (✓) in the first column by each item which applies to this child. If you feel that the item does not apply to the child, put a zero (0) in the first column.

After you have gone through the list, please go back through those items you have checked and put another checkmark (✓) in the second column opposite those that are now most characteristic of this child, that describe how he (she) is most of the time.

	Does this apply at all?	Is it char- acteristic?
1. Is happy when h/she does a "good job."	_____	_____
2. Gets carried away by his/her feelings.	_____	_____
3. Is tidy and neat, perhaps even a little bit fussy about it.	_____	_____
4. Can't wait - wants to have things immediately.	_____	_____
5. Is concerned about the feelings of adults.	_____	_____
6. Gets irritated or angry easily.	_____	_____
7. Feelings are apparent in his/her facial expression.	_____	_____
8. Plays with toys in a rough way.	_____	_____
9. Handles small objects skillfully.	_____	_____
10. Doesn't pay attention to what others say.	_____	_____

	Does this apply at all?	Is it char- acteristic?
11. Activity is focused on a particular purpose, seems to accomplish what he/she sets out to do.	_____	_____
12. Looks awkward when he/she moves around.	_____	_____
13. Accepts new ideas without getting upset.	_____	_____
14. Acts in ways that makes adults not like him/her.	_____	_____
15. Shows pride in accomplishment.	_____	_____
16. Appears stiff in walking or moving about.	_____	_____
17. Seems comfortable in new situations.	_____	_____
18. Has trouble finding the right words to say what he/she means.	_____	_____
19. Wants very much to be approved of.	_____	_____
20. Seems to do things just to get adults angry at him/her.	_____	_____
21. Moves gracefully - well coordinated.	_____	_____
22. Has a characteristic mannerism or nervous habit.	_____	_____
23. Plays to win.	_____	_____
24. Quickly loses interest in an activity.	_____	_____
25. Does what persons ask him/her to do.	_____	_____
26. Never gets excited about anything, even when you expected him/her to be pleased with something.	_____	_____
27. Makes friends quickly and easily.	_____	_____
28. Seems sad and unhappy.	_____	_____
29. Self-confident.	_____	_____

	Does this apply at all?	Is it char- acteristic?
30. Tends to go too far unless reminded of rules.	_____	_____
31. Talks all the time.	_____	_____
32. Often has to be reminded of what he/she can and can't do.	_____	_____
33. Affectionate - enjoys being physically close to adults.	_____	_____
34. Threatens to hit or hurt others.	_____	_____
35. Is able to stand up for himself/herself.	_____	_____
36. Seems out of touch with what is going on around him/her - off in his/her own world.	_____	_____
37. Is polite and cooperative.	_____	_____
38. Has uncontrollable outbursts of temper.	_____	_____
39. Is easily embarrassed.	_____	_____
40. Often breaks the rules in games.	_____	_____
41. Is careful in explanation - precise.	_____	_____
42. When told to do something he/she doesn't want to do, he/she becomes angry.	_____	_____
43. Is curious about things.	_____	_____
44. Plays aimlessly, doesn't seem to make or accomplish anything.	_____	_____
45. Prefers competitive games.	_____	_____
46. Seems selfish, always wants his/her own way.	_____	_____
47. Showed appreciation when others helped or did things for him/her.	_____	_____
48. Seldom laughs or smiles.	_____	_____

	Does this apply at all?	Is it char- acteristic?
49. Energetic.	_____	_____
50. Doesn't seem to care about how he/ she looks - often looks sloppy.	_____	_____
51. Asks sensible questions.	_____	_____
52. Blows up very easily when bothered.	_____	_____
53. Shows pleasure and involvement in most things he/she does.	_____	_____
54. Fidgety and restless.	_____	_____
55. Is competitive.	_____	_____
56. Acts as if adults are against him/her.	_____	_____
57. Pitches in when things have to be done.	_____	_____
58. Often seems angry for no particular reason, expresses it in many different ways.	_____	_____
59. Quick and clever.	_____	_____
60. Aggressive and overpowering.	_____	_____
61. Learns quickly.	_____	_____
62. Bossy.	_____	_____
63. Likes to do things well.	_____	_____
64. Tires easily in activities.	_____	_____

## AML

Pupil \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Sex of Pupil     M         F      
(circle one)

Grade of Pupil \_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher's Name \_\_\_\_\_

We would like you to indicate how often you have observed certain behaviors in the classroom of the child named above. To help you interpret the five rating points, brief descriptions are provided for each.

- (1) Never--You have literally never observed this behavior in this child.
- (2) Seldom--You have observed this behavior once or twice in the past three months.
- (3) Moderate frequency--You have seen this behavior more often than once a month but less often than once a week.
- (4) Often--You have seen the behavior more often than once a week but less often than daily.
- (5) Most or all of the time--You have seen the behavior with great frequency, averaging once a day or more often.

Two things should be kept in mind while completing the AML: (a) Work rapidly and don't fret too much about making fine discriminations, (b) It is extremely important that your ratings realistically reflect problems that the child evidences. Please make your ratings reflect problems as you have perceived them.

Thank you for your attention.

Section I. Please rate every item on the following scale:

1. not a problem      3. moderate problem      5. very serious problem  
2. very mild problem      4. serious problem

Child's Classroom Behavior:

- \_\_\_ disruptive in class  
\_\_\_ fidgety, hyperactive, can't stay in seat  
\_\_\_ talks out of turn, disturbs others while they are working  
\_\_\_ constantly seeks attention, "clowns around"  
\_\_\_ overly aggressive to peers, (fights, is overbearing, belligerent)  
\_\_\_ defiant, obstinate, stubborn  
\_\_\_ impulsive, is unable to delay  
\_\_\_ withdrawn  
\_\_\_ shy, timid  
\_\_\_ does not make friends  
\_\_\_ over conforms to rules  
\_\_\_ daydreams, is preoccupied, "off in another world"  
\_\_\_ unable to express feelings  
\_\_\_ anxious  
\_\_\_ worried, frightened, tense  
\_\_\_ depressed  
\_\_\_ cries easily, pouts, sulks  
\_\_\_ does not trust others  
\_\_\_ shows other signs of "nervousness," specify: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_ specific fears specify: \_\_\_\_\_

Other Behaviors:

- \_\_\_ lacks self-confidence  
\_\_\_ overly sensitive to criticism  
\_\_\_ reacts poorly to disappointment  
\_\_\_ depends too much on others  
\_\_\_ pretends to be ill  
\_\_\_ other, specify: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_ poor grooming or personal hygiene

Child's Academic Performance:

- \_\_\_ underachieving (not working up to potential)  
\_\_\_ poorly motivated to achieve  
\_\_\_ poor work habits  
\_\_\_ difficulty following directions  
\_\_\_ poor concentration, limited attention span  
\_\_\_ motor coordination problem  
\_\_\_ other, specify: \_\_\_\_\_

Child has specific academic problems in:

- \_\_\_ reading \_\_\_ math \_\_\_ numbers  
\_\_\_ writing \_\_\_ colors \_\_\_ concepts  
\_\_\_ language skills problems,  
specify: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE RATE THIS PUPIL'S BEHAVIOR AS  
YOU HAVE OBSERVED AND EXPERIENCED IT:

This Pupil--	Never (1)	Seldom (2)	Moderately Often (3)	Often (4)	Most or all of the time (5)
1. Gets into fights or quarrels with other students	( )	( )	( )	( )	( )
2. Has to be coaxed or forced to work or play with other pupils	( )	( )	( )	( )	( )
3. Is restless	( )	( )	( )	( )	( )
4. Is unhappy or depressed	( )	( )	( )	( )	( )
5. Disrupts class discipline	( )	( )	( )	( )	( )
6. Becomes sick when faced with a difficult school problem or situation	( )	( )	( )	( )	( )
7. Is obstinate	( )	( )	( )	( )	( )
8. Feels hurt when criticized	( )	( )	( )	( )	( )
9. Is impulsive	( )	( )	( )	( )	( )
10. Is moody	( )	( )	( )	( )	( )
11. Has difficulty learning	( )	( )	( )	( )	( )

Below, we have listed specific behavior and adaptation problems which may appear to you as interfering with this child's ability to profit from his/her school experience. Please rate every item in Section I on the following scale of problem severity:

- |                      |                         |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. not a problem     | 4. serious problem      |
| 2. very mild problem | 5. very serious problem |
| 3. moderate problem  |                         |

Specific instructions are provided for Sections II and III.

Section II. From your experiences with this child, please check (✓) any of the following which you believe relate to the problems you have reported:

<input type="checkbox"/> separation or divorce of parents	<input type="checkbox"/> economic difficulties
<input type="checkbox"/> illness or death of a family member	<input type="checkbox"/> under family pressure to succeed
<input type="checkbox"/> lack of educational stimulation in the home	<input type="checkbox"/> family difficulties

Section III. From your experiences with this child, please check (✓) where she/he would lie on the following dimensions taking into account the direction of each item:

Know child well	Barely know child
1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____ 4 _____ 5 _____ 6 _____ 7 _____	

Child seems easy to like	Child seems difficult to like
1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____ 4 _____ 5 _____ 6 _____ 7 _____	

Child has significant school adjustment problems	Child has no school adjustment problems
1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____ 4 _____ 5 _____ 6 _____ 7 _____	



## APPENDIX D

### Measures of Parents' Perceptions of Their Caregiving Attitudes and Behaviors

## APPENDIX D

### Measures of Parents' Perceptions of Their Caregiving Attitudes and Behaviors

#### CRCP QUESTIONNAIRE

Since we don't know for sure what are the best ways to raise children, we are studying more about what parents and prospective parents do (or might do) in different situations involving children.

In answering all of the questions, try to imagine that you are the parent of the 4 to 10 year-old child whose behavior is described in the item. We are interested in what you would actually feel or do in the situations described, not what you think a person should ideally feel or do. While different people give different responses to these questions, there are no "right" or "wrong" answers. Every person has his or her own individual way of responding to children. We want to learn what your way is or would be in these situations.

Your responses will be kept strictly confidential. No one but the researchers will ever see your answers. Read the directions carefully and do not skip any items.

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_

Your address: \_\_\_\_\_

Your age: \_\_\_\_\_

Your sex: \_\_\_\_\_

Today's date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please list the names, ages and sex of your children in the space below. Please put a checkmark in front of the name of the child who took part in our study.

Your last grade completed in school: \_\_\_\_\_

Your occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Marital status:   Single           Married           Divorced

                  Separated   Widowed       Remarried

Part I

Directions: Below is a list of items describing many aspects of children's feelings and behaviors. Of course, not all of these items apply to a particular child, but quite a few of them apply to most children.

We are interested in how much parents and prospective parents focus their attention on various behaviors that children engage in. We want to know how much you would emphasize, place importance on, be concerned about, care about, focus on, or give your attention to each behavior described. We want to know how much it would matter to you if your child acted in certain ways.

It makes no difference here whether you would encourage or discourage the behavior in question. We only want to know how much it would matter to you if your child engaged in the behavior, regardless of how you might show it. For example, while all parents may agree that a child should wear a hat in winter, some parents might focus their attention on this behavior more than other parents would.

Read each item carefully and indicate the extent to which the behavior described would matter to you in raising your own child. Imagine you are the parent of a 4 to 10 year-old child who is engaging in the described behavior. Then use the following scale to indicate how much the behavior would matter to you--how much you would focus your attention on it:

- 1 = It would matter very little.
- 2 = It would matter somewhat.
- 3 = It would matter to a moderate degree.
- 4 = It would matter quite a bit.
- 5 = It would matter a great deal.

Read each item carefully, then darken the number that best indicates the extent to which you would focus your attention on the behavior in question--the extent to which it would matter to you. Do not skip any items. Use the purple answer sheet.

## CRCP Questionnaire.

How much would it matter  
to you if your child:

	<u>very little</u>	<u>some- what</u>	<u>moderate extent</u>	<u>quite a bit</u>	<u>a great deal</u>
1. Ignores what adults tell him/her to do?	1	2	3	4	5
2. Shares toys?	1	2	3	4	5
3. Gets irritated or angry easily?	1	2	3	4	5
4. Shows pride in an accomplishment?	1	2	3	4	5
5. Tells lies?	1	2	3	4	5
6. Shows concern about the feelings of others?	1	2	3	4	5
7. Fights with friends or with brothers and sisters?	1	2	3	4	5
8. Shows self-confidence?	1	2	3	4	5
9. Has to be reminded of what he/she may or may not do?	1	2	3	4	5
10. Makes friends easily?	1	2	3	4	5
11. Plays with toys in a rough way?	1	2	3	4	5
12. Does well at a new task?	1	2	3	4	5
13. Becomes angry when told to do something he/she doesn't want to do?	1	2	3	4	5
14. Is polite and cooperative with others?	1	2	3	4	5
15. Does things just to get others angry?	1	2	3	4	5
16. Plays to win?	1	2	3	4	5
17. Goes too far unless frequently reminded of rules?	1	2	3	4	5

## CRCP Questionnaire.

How much would it matter  
to you if your child:

	<u>very little</u>	<u>some- what</u>	<u>moderate extent</u>	<u>quite a bit</u>	<u>a great deal</u>
18. Pitches in when things need to be done?	1	2	3	4	5
19. Blows up easily when bothered by someone?	1	2	3	4	5
20. Accomplishes what he/ she sets out to do?	1	2	3	4	5
21. Cheats in school?	1	2	3	4	5
22. Helps around the house?	1	2	3	4	5
23. Threatens to hit or hurt others?	1	2	3	4	5
24. Keeps new clothes clean?	1	2	3	4	5

Part II

Directions: Four parent-child situations are described on the following pages. Below each description, there is a list of things that some parents (who were interviewed in the past) do in such situations.

Read each description carefully, then check how often you honestly believe you would do each of the things on the list of parental responses. Use the following scale to indicate how often you feel you would do each thing (or something like it) if you were the parent of a 4 to 10 year-old child at such times:

- 1 Never
- 2 Rarely
- 3 Sometimes
- 4 Frequently
- 5 Usually

Imagine you are the child's parent at such times as those described. Then darken the appropriate number for how often you would do each thing on the list in these kinds of situations. Read the items carefully, and please do not skip any items. Continue to use the purple answer sheet.

\*NOTE: The word "he" is to be read as "he or she."

SITUATION A

Some times it's hard for parents to get children to do things for them. For example, imagine you have something that you want very much for your child to do right away. You walk to the room he's in and tell him what you want him to do, and ask him to do it right away. He says he's busy watching a television program and can't do the thing you want him to do now. Here is a list of things that some parents have done at times like that. Circle how often you would do each one or something like it in such situations.

- 1 = Never  
 2 = Rarely  
 3 = Sometimes  
 4 = Frequently  
 5 = Usually

	Never		Some times		Usually
25. Hit or spank him.	1	2	3	4	5
26. Tell him he ought to be ashamed of himself.	1	2	3	4	5
27. Explain that if he would do it now, then I would have a chance to do some other things I need to do.	1	2	3	4	5
28. Tell him he's being selfish.	1	2	3	4	5
29. Give reasons why the thing has to be done right away.	1	2	3	4	5
30. Tell his father (mother) and let him (her) handle it.	1	2	3	4	5
31. Go over and turn off the television.	1	2	3	4	5
32. Tell him he can finish the program as long as he does what I want as soon as it's over.	1	2	3	4	5
33. Go and do it myself, but show him that I'm hurt and disappointed in him.	1	2	3	4	5
34. Tell him I'm sorry he'll miss the program and explain why the thing must be done now.	1	2	3	4	5

## Situation A (continued)

	Never		Some- times		Usually
	1	2	3	4	5
36. Tell him that if he doesn't do it now, he won't be able to have something he likes or do something he likes to do.					
37. Tell him I'm disappointed in him.	1	2	3	4	5
38. Do it myself and show him I don't like it by not talking to him for awhile.	1	2	3	4	5
39. Tell him that we each have to help each other out and that I need for him to do the thing right away.	1	2	3	4	5
40. Tell him I would like him to be more considerate of my wishes.	1	2	3	4	5
41. Do nothing.	1	2	3	4	5
42. Tell him to do it now anyway.	1	2	3	4	5
43. Tell him he is just being stubborn and that he better stop it right now.	1	2	3	4	5
44. Tell him he'll be sorry if he doesn't do it right away.	1	2	3	4	5

Situation B

There are times when every child shows self-confidence and performs well at a new task in school. Here is a list of things some parents do when this happens. Please check how often you would do each thing or something like it in such situations.

- 1 = Never
- 2 = Rarely
- 3 = Sometimes
- 4 = Frequently
- 5 = Usually

45. Give him some extra spending money or something else he wants.	1	2	3	4	5
--	---	---	---	---	---



## CRCP Questionnaire.

## Situation B (continued)

	Never		Some- times		Usually
	1	2	3	4	5
46. Explain how good he must feel after trying hard and succeeding.	1	2	3	4	5
47. Kiss him or hug him.	1	2	3	4	5
48. Show him that he could still do even better.	1	2	3	4	5
49. Promise him something he wants.	1	2	3	4	5
50. Explain that he feels good because he's working up to his potential.	1	2	3	4	5
51. Do nothing.	1	2	3	4	5
52. Show him how proud I am.	1	2	3	4	5
53. Tell him to keep up the good work.	1	2	3	4	5
54. Tell him that what he did makes me happy.	1	2	3	4	5
55. Buy him something he wants.	1	2	3	4	5
56. Tell him how much it means to us for him to do well.	1	2	3	4	5
57. Remind him that he shouldn't get conceited or brag about his accomplishments.	1	2	3	4	5
58. Explain to him that doing well will help him feel good about himself and get what he wants in life.	1	2	3	4	5
59. Tell him I know how proud and happy he must be because he did so well.	1	2	3	4	5
60. Show him that these things are just expected from him and that they are no big deal.	1	2	3	4	5
61. Tell him he'll be rewarded for doing so well.	1	2	3	4	5

## CRCP Questionnaire

## Situation B (continued)

	Never		Some- times		Usually
62. Tell him what a talented person he is.	1	2	3	4	5
63. Tell him that a job well done is rewarding for its own sake.	1	2	3	4	5
64. Make arrangements for him to do something he has wanted to do for a long time.	1	2	3	4	5

Situation C

Every child when he can't have his own way will sometimes get angry at his parents and talk back. Here is a list of things some parents do when a child angrily talks back. Please circle how often you would do each thing or something like it in such situations.

- 1 = Never
- 2 = Rarely
- 3 = Sometimes
- 4 = Frequently
- 5 = Usually

65. Hit or spank him.	1	2	3	4	5
66. Tell him I don't like it when he talks back angrily and that he can discuss it more calmly.	1	2	3	4	5
67. Tell him I don't like children who don't show respect for their parents.	1	2	3	4	5
68. Tell him I'll hit or spank him if he ever talks like that again.	1	2	3	4	5
69. Explain that even though he's angry, I would prefer that he express his feelings in a regular tone of voice.	1	2	3	4	5
70. Tell him I don't want to talk to him or have anything to do with him unless he says he's sorry.	1	2	3	4	5

## CRCP Questionnaire

## Situation C (continued)

	Never		Some- times		Usually
71. Not let him have something he likes or do something he likes to do.	1	2	3	4	5
72. Tell him that what he said hurts my feelings and that he can express his anger without saying nasty things to me.	1	2	3	4	5
73. Give him an angry look and walk away.	1	2	3	4	5
74. Tell his father (mother) and let him (her) handle it.	1	2	3	4	5
75. Do nothing.	1	2	3	4	5
76. Tell him he is acting like a little baby and that he better stop it right now.	1	2	3	4	5
77. Tell him I'm angry at him for what he said and explain why he can't have his way.	1	2	3	4	5
78. Send him to his room until he's ready to talk about it.	1	2	3	4	5
79. Tell him he'll be sorry if he doesn't be quiet.	1	2	3	4	5
80. Tell him he ought to be ashamed of himself for talking like that.	1	2	3	4	5
81. Give him reasons why he can't have his way.	1	2	3	4	5
82. Give him an angry look and ignore him for awhile.	1	2	3	4	5
83. Tell him I won't talk to him or have anything to do with him if that's the way he's going to act.	1	2	3	4	5
84. Tell him I know he's angry and explain why he can't have his way.	1	2	3	4	5

Situation D

There are times when every child shows a great deal of concern for the feelings of others, being kind of helpful and cooperative when it is needed. Here is a list of things some parents do when this happens. Please circle how often you would do each thing or something like it in such situations.

- 1 = Never  
 2 = Rarely  
 3 = Sometimes  
 4 = Frequently  
 5 = Usually

	Never		Some- times		Usually
85. Let him do something special he wants to do.	1	2	3	4	5
86. Not make anything of it even though I might feel good inside.	1	2	3	4	5
87. Explain to him that doing good will make him feel good about himself in life.	1	2	3	4	5
88. Tell him that I love kind and considerate people like him.	1	2	3	4	5
89. Tell him what a helpful and good person he is.	1	2	3	4	5
90. Reward him for doing the good deed.	1	2	3	4	5
91. Ask why he isn't always so cooperative and considerate.	1	2	3	4	5
92. Tell him that what he did makes me happy.	1	2	3	4	5
93. Say it is good when you treat others as you would like to be treated.	1	2	3	4	5
94. Explain how it makes him happy to do kind and helpful things.	1	2	3	4	5
95. Show him that these things are just expected and are no big deal.	1	2	3	4	5

## CRCP Questionnaire

## Situation D (continued)

	Never		Some- times		Usually
96. Tell him I am very proud of the way he acted.	1	2	3	4	5
97. Give him some extra spending money or something else he wants.	1	2	3	4	5
98. Point out some other good things he ought to do but hasn't been doing.	1	2	3	4	5
99. Explain that being considerate to others makes a person feel worthwhile	1	2	3	4	5
100. Tell him that doing something kind is very rewarding just in itself.	1	2	3	4	5
101. Promise him something he wants.	1	2	3	4	5
102. Tell him that "nice guys finish last."	1	2	3	4	5
103. Kiss him or hug him.	1	2	3	4	5
104. Buy him something he has wanted for a long time.	1	2	3	4	5

Before returning the questionnaire, please check to be sure that each item has been completed. Thanks for your participation.

Code Number \_\_\_\_\_

## PARENT'S CRPB FORM B - BOYS

ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES YOU WILL FIND A LIST OF STATEMENTS. FOR EACH STATEMENT YOU ARE TO INDICATE WHETHER THE STATEMENT IS "LIKE," "A LITTLE LIKE," OR "NOT LIKE" THE WAY THINGS ARE IN YOUR FAMILY. PLEASE PUT YOUR ANSWERS ON THE ANSWER SHEET THAT IS ENCLOSED WITH THE QUESTIONNAIRE, USING THE FOLLOWING ANSWER FORMAT:

1 = Like

2 = A little Like

3 = Not Like

THAT IS, IF A STATEMENT IS "LIKE" THE WAY THINGS ARE IN YOUR FAMILY, FILL IN THE NUMBER 1 ALONGSIDE THAT STATEMENT NUMBER. IF THE ITEM IS "A LITTLE LIKE" THE WAY THINGS ARE IN YOUR FAMILY, FILL IN THE NUMBER 2 ALONGSIDE THAT STATEMENT NUMBER. IF THE STATEMENT IS "NOT LIKE" THE WAY THINGS ARE IN YOUR FAMILY, FILL IN THE NUMBER 3 ALONGSIDE THAT STATEMENT NUMBER.

## APPENDIX E

### Measures of Children's Perceptions of Their Parents' Caregiving Behaviors

#### CRPB Form B - Mothers

1. Mother can be talked into things easily.
2. Mother does not bother to enforce rules.
3. Mother says that sooner or later we always pay for bad behavior.
4. Mother likes to talk to me and be with me much of the time.
5. Mother seems proud of the things I do.
6. Mother smiles at me very often.
7. Mother says some day I'll be punished for my bad behavior.
8. Mother enjoys working with me in the house or yard.
9. Mother says if I really cared for her, I would not do things that cause her to worry.
10. Mother makes her whole life center about her children.
11. Mother cheers me up when I'm sad.
12. Mother excuses my bad conduct.
13. Mother doesn't check up to see whether I have done what she told me.
14. Mother says if I loved her, I'd do what she wants me to do.
15. Mother lets me get away without doing work I had been given to do.
16. Mother does not insist I obey if I complain or protest.
17. Mother thinks I'm not grateful when I don't obey.
18. Mother seems to see my good points more than my faults.
19. Mother isn't interested in changing me, but likes me as I am.
20. Mother enjoys staying at home with me more than going out with friends.
21. Mother worries about how I will turn out, because she takes anything bad I do seriously.

24. I think and talk about his misbehavior long after it is over.
25. I make him feel like the most important person in my life.
26. I let him off easy when he does something wrong.
27. I often speak of the good things he does.
28. I have a good time at home with him.
29. I tell him how much I have suffered for him.
30. I am able to make him feel better when he is upset.
31. I enjoy going on drives, trips or visits with him.
32. I let him stay up late if he keeps asking.
33. I give him a lot of care and attention.
34. I think that any misbehavior is very serious and will have future consequences.
35. I don't insist that he does his homework.
36. I often give up something to get something for him.
37. I almost always speak to him with a warm and friendly voice.
38. He can talk me out of an order, if he complains.
39. I enjoy doing things with him.
40. I don't pay much attention to his misbehavior.
41. I let him get away with a lot of things.
42. I feel hurt by the things he does.
43. I understand his problems and worries.
44. I am always thinking of things that will please him.
45. I feel hurt when he doesn't follow advice.
46. I say to him that someday he'll be sorry that he wasn't better as a child.
47. I comfort him when he's afraid.
48. I am easy with him.



49. I usually don't find out about his misbehavior.
50. I tell him of all the things I have done for him.
51. I spend almost all of my free time with my children.
52. I enjoy talking things over with him.
53. I make him feel better after he talks over his worries with me.
54. If he breaks a promise, I don't trust him again for a long time.
55. I seldom insist that he do anything.
56. I can't say no to anything he wants.

## APPENDIX E

### Measures of Children's Perceptions of Their Parents' Caregiving Behaviors

## APPENDIX F

World View Coding Manual and Rating Forms

APPENDIX F  
World View Coding Manual and Rating Forms

Coding Manual

Coding procedures:

- (1) Run beginning of tape 'till I come on saying "Now."
- (2) Set tape on "Pause," SET TAPE COUNTER ON "000" and WRITE THIS NUMBER ABOVE COLUMN 1, wait for the 30 sec. beep.
- (3) As soon as you hear the beep start running the tape and coding.
- (4) When you hear the next 30 sec. beep set tape on "Pause," WRITE DOWN THE COUNTER NUMBER ABOVE THE APPROPRIATE COLUMN, check to see if any more categories need be marked, wait for next beep to proceed.
- (5) Stop rating at the point where I tell the camera person to scan the World after the child has described it and before I begin to collect objects (you DO code while the child is describing the World and I am asking questions).

Don't forget to put the tape code # and your initials in the provided spaces as well as the page number of the presence/absence coding sheet!!!

## NOTES AND GUIDELINES

Response determinants: There are four different ways to determine under what category a response is to be classified--

- (1) Through what the child directly says about an object or scene (i.e. "These are the good guys and they go over and kiss the ladies").
  - (2) Through what the child indirectly says by speaking through the objects (i.e. "We're the good guys and we're going to give you ladies a kiss").
  - (3) Through the nonverbalized actions of the objects (i.e. the child picks up the male figures, places them against the female figures and makes a kissing sound).
  - (4) Through how the child answers the experimenter's questions (i.e. I ask, "Are these guys kissing the ladies?" and the child answers, "Yes").
- Code only if an action has actually occurred, will occur, or has been attempted, NOT if the child states it might occur.
  - Do NOT code my repeating of the child's statement of what just occurred in previous 30 sec.
  - If a camera is on an object/scene (i.e. construction equipment) right after "beep" and child no longer directly involved in it do NOT code--code what child actually is doing/saying at the moment!

## DEFINITIONS

Aggression: Any event where something is physically or emotionally harmed.

Devouring/Biting--Any incident where a non-food object is bitten, eaten, or devoured.

Direct Physical--Any incident involving purposeful, direct physical contact intended to harm another object; hitting, stabbing, kicking, smashing, choking, wrestling, running over, etc. (If not obviously intentional score under "Accident".)

Distance Physical--Any incident involving a purposeful attempt to harm an object from a distance; shooting, bombing, exploding, throwing at, etc. Also any act of violence that not specifically stated how occurred but clearly non-accidental (i.e. "they were murdered"), poisoning.

Accident--Any incident involving a harmful outcome where there is no apparent intentionality or control; accidental crashes, natural disasters--fires, "dying", etc.

Verbal--Any verbal attempt to emotionally hurt or demean another object; teasing, ridiculing, swearing at, cursing, scolding, admonishing, threatening, harrassing, laughing at, embarrassing, name calling. (NOT merely stating a feeling i.e. "I'm mad at you" or daring i.e. "I bet you can't" but comments that are clearly not respecting the other and are attempting/succeed in making the other feel bad.)

Social--Any incident that clearly, unambiguously breaches social norms of good etiquette and conduct not included in the above categories; lying, stealing, cheating, deceiving, tricking, gross dissocial acts (i.e. peeing in the street), rejecting pleas for help, taking away what others want, greed, stinginess, scaring.

Deprivation/Suffering--Any incident of suffering, unhappiness, due to general circumstances rather than purposeful aggression from other objects; hunger, sickness, coldness, general physical/emotional discomfort and uneasiness.

Abandonment/Lost--Any incident where an object is left contrary to its will (as specified by the child or by the object's reaction to being left); any incident where an object is lost.

Benevolence: Any act of goodness towards an object.

Physical--Any direct physical contact that communicates warmth and caring; kissing, hugging, cuddling, stroking, holding hands, arms around each other, patting on the back, massaging.

Verbal--Verbally expressing care, empathy, support, comfort, warmth, complimenting; "I love you," "I hope you'll feel better," "It'll work out ok," "You're pretty" (compliments should also be scored under "Adequacy: Positive").

Helping/Rescuing--Any incident where an object is helped or rescued; feeding, dressing, protecting, guiding, giving helpful advice, warning (where clear concern for the object's welfare), tucking into bed, taking care of a sick/hurt object, etc. doing a service for someone (i.e. milkman delivering milk), guarding something.

Affiliative Acts--Any incident where two or more objects are engaged in an activity that is clearly mutually enjoyable as specified by the child or the objects' reactions; playing, singing, dancing, etc. Acts of generosity, care and good will that are not included in above categories i.e. gift giving, sharing what one has, singing a lullaby, social gatherings like parties, picnics, sporting events, weddings, parades, etc.

Satisfying Experiences--Anytime an object is feeling satisfied, happy, content, as specified by the child directly or through the object, due to general circumstances or immediate, specific acts by/with others; "I feel good today," "What a wonderful night's sleep," "The little girl saw it was a beautiful morning and felt very happy," etc.

Dominance: Any act of controlling, ordering, commanding, forcing, demanding, restraining, arresting an object; NOT merely requesting something of an object where there's a sense of two equals interacting, but instances where there's a clear sense that one object is or is trying to be more powerful/in command/the boss of the other object; "Stop that right now!" "Come here immediately!" "You guys are under arrest," "The witch cast a spell so the girl couldn't move," "Superman grabbed her from behind and wouldn't let her go" (this would NOT be scored "Direct Physical" unless the child states that Superman was trying to hurt her; it is scored "Dominance" since it is an attempt to control another and prevent them from doing what they would like).

Submission: Any act of obeying, giving into demands, following orders, going along with what told to do, cowering, feeling ashamed or embarrassed; NOT merely cooperating with a request but clearly giving the sense of willfully going along with the orders, commands, instructions, demands of an object that is superior/the boss rather than an equal; "The boy followed what the others told him to do," "She felt very embarrassed," "They were ashamed," the child has one object order another one and has the other then carry out the order in action though doesn't explicitly state obedience; deference, cow-tow.

Construction: Events involving physically building, creating, or producing either by the objects or the child pretending to be a construction equipment doing a job; NOT merely the child creating/constructing a World scene, but specifically using objects or himself to depict

themes involving construction/building; "They're building a road," "These workmen are constructing a house," "They're clearing the land to build a housing project," "I'm a crane digging out the road" (NOT merely the fact that the child uses his hands to dig out a road or river but that he specifically states he is some kind of construction equipment building something); (a good clue in for construction themes is whenever the child selects out objects like the crane, bulldozer, dump truck, and other construction equipment BUT a child could also use construction equipment for destruction as in running over someone with it or explicitly stating the equipment was destroying the land/town/whatever, in which case it would be scored "Aggression: Direct Physical").

Assertion: Asserting oneself to gain or maintain what one wants.

Reactive—Assertion against restrictions/demands/commands of others or the environment; sticking up for oneself against others who are or are trying to be in a dominating/more powerful/controlling position; not doing what asked to do; rebelling or not conforming to others' intentions; "They tried to scare her (would be scored "Aggression: Social") but she wasn't," "No, I won't do it," "It was raining real hard but he didn't let that stop him from going;" generally not letting others/nature stop one from what wanting to do or force one to do what don't want to.

Initiated—Self initiated assertion to gain what one wants where NOT as a reaction to external restraints/demands; acts that give a sense of independence, self-sufficiency, resourcefulness, masterfulness, confidence, pride, effectiveness, enterprising, exploration; doing things for oneself; "The little boy wanted to tie his shoes all by himself," "She knew she could do it," "I don't need any help in building this house" (scored "Assertion: Initiated" as well as "Construction"), "She was proud of the good job she did all on her own" (scored also for "Adequacy: Positive").

Adequacy: Any evaluative/judgmental references about the characteristics of something or attributions of positive/negative qualities to it.

Positive—The child directly or through another object attributes a positive quality or characteristic to an object; use of any of the positive adjectives in describing something, i.e. beautiful, strong, smart, kind, generous, loyal, honest, nice, wonderful, cute, etc., etc., etc. (sometimes whether a description is meant positively or negatively can only be determined in context, thus "The little, tiny puppy" might infer a positive cuteness or a negative helplessness, or merely descriptive and thus not be scored "Adequacy" at all.

Negative—The child directly or through another object attributes a negative quality or characteristic to an object; use of any of the negative adjectives in describing something, i.e. ugly, weak, stupid, cruel, stingy, unfaithful, dishonest, horrible, etc., etc., etc.



(NOTE: Any compliment or deridement which is stated through an object and not directly by the child (i.e. one object says to another "You are beautiful" vs. the child saying "This object is beautiful") is scored BOTH "Benevolence: Verbal" or "Malevolence: Verbal" AND "Adequacy: Positive" or "Adequacy: Negative." However, anytime the child makes direct evaluative statements about an object, i.e. "Wow, what a far out car!" it is ONLY scored under "Adequacy: Positive or Negative" and NOT under "Benevolence or Malevolence: Verbal".)

Dependence: Seeking aid, comfort, help, consolation, forgiveness, support, protection, guidance, advice, care, succorance; "The little girl wanted someone to come pick her up" (the phrase "the little girl" is NOT scored under "Adequacy: Positive or Negative" since there is no sense of evaluation or judgment being made here but merely description), "Please make me something to eat," "I want to lay in your lap," "I'm sorry I did that, I'll be a better boy next time" (scored also for "Adequacy: Negative" since the implication is the boy is NOT being good now), "Don't let the monster hurt me" or "Monster, please don't hurt me" or "She didn't want the monster to hurt her," "He asked them how to get to the town."

Hiding/Escaping: Any incident of something explicitly hidden or hiding (as directly or indirectly specified by the child), escaping, fleeing, running away; "They stayed in the cave so nobody would find them," "He got away from the cops," "She jumped over the railing so that they wouldn't catch her."

Searching/Finding: Any act of seeking/searching for something and/or finding it; "They found the lost treasure" (scored also under "Abandonment/Lost" for the "lost treasure"), "She was looking for a place to sleep," "They were trying to find the escaped convict" (scored also under "Hiding/Escapes" for the "escaped convict").



Code # \_\_\_\_\_

Rater \_\_\_\_\_

## (1) Task involvement:

1	2	3	4
Uninvolved	A little involvement	Quite a bit of involvement	Extremely involved

## (2) Approach to task:

1	2	3	4
Items carefully placed for scene construction, rarely played with	Some playing with items during scene construction	Quite a bit of playing with items	Much dramatic playing with items

## (3) Organization:

1	2	3	4
Items apparently unrelated, placed totally at random; W looks chaotic	A few areas of interrelating items though these areas not related to each other	Numerous areas of interrelated items though not all of these areas related to each other	Most/all items inter-related in a single cohesive theme, interdependent and organized by a unifying idea; items can be in separate groups of interrelated items though these groups are interrelated by a single theme/idea

## (4) Structure/rigidity:

1	2	3	4
Most of W very structured; items in rigid rows/columns equal distance, highly regimented	Much of W rigidly structured though some areas not	A few areas rigidly structured though most of W not	No/little rigid structuring; items in orderly relation yet forming diverse patterns

or  
1

2	3	4
Much of W lacks symmetry though a few cohesive, orderly areas	A few areas haphazard though most of W not	No/little haphazardness; items in orderly, diverse patterns

Code # \_\_\_\_\_

Rater \_\_\_\_\_

## (6) Closedness:

- |   |  |                      |  |
|---|--|----------------------|--|
| 1   | 2  | 3                    | 4  |
| Many areas closed off to contain/exclude items by encircling them with fences, sand, river, other items; or whole W encircled | Several enclosed areas or one large area though some of W not enclosed | A few enclosed areas | No enclosures, no areas segregated from others |

## (7) Sparseness:

- |   |  |  |  |
|---|--|--|--|
| 1   | 2  | 3  | 4  |
| Items are scattered very far apart with much space between them; W appears sparse | Items are placed somewhat far apart; W appears somewhat sparse | A few areas where items somewhat far apart | Items placed in an expected distance from each other; W does not appear sparse |

or

## (8) Crowdedness:

- |   |  |  |   |
|---|--|--|---|
| 1   | 2  | 3  | 4   |
| Items are compacted very close together; W appears very crowded | Items are placed somewhat close together; W appears somewhat crowded | A few areas where items somewhat crowded | Items placed in an expected distance from each other; W does not appear crowded |

## (9) Use of area:

- |   |                                     |  |                                   |
|---|-------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|
| 1   | 2                                   | 3  | 4                                 |
| Child uses roughly one fourth of box area | Child uses roughly half of box area | Child uses roughly three fourths of box area | Child uses nearly all of box area |

## (10) Description vs. story:

- |  |                                |                                   |   |
|--|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| 1  | 2                              | 3                                 | 4   |
| Child merely constructs scene; no story/incidents depicted, child only describes what made | A few brief incidents depicted | Several longer incidents depicted | Many stories/incidents depicted; many interrelated events or one long story |

Code# \_\_\_\_\_

Rater \_\_\_\_\_

## (11) Realism:

1

W totally of fantasy events that have no counterpart/possibility in reality

2

W mostly of fantasy events that have no counterpart in reality though some events are possible

3

W of events that could occur in reality but are not part of the child's everyday life

4

W entirely realistic all items and themes have counterparts in child's everyday reality

(12) Expansion: Rate the greatest degree of expansion found in the World as indicated by specific mention of places or what the items portray.

1

W depicts activities inside the home

2

W depicts activities around home and immediate vicinity (i.e. backyard)

3

W depicts familiar, local environments

4

W depicts environments beyond the child's actual local environment (i.e. battlefields, foreign countries)

5

W depicts environments outside of earth (i.e. the moon) or of imaginary lands not possibly existing on earth; or intermingles (i.e. part earth, part another planet)

Time: Rate the time dimension used in the World where clearly indicated by the events depicted or the child's explicit statements while building the scene (irrespective of whether the child states the World is in the present, past, or future when asked at the conclusion).

## (13)

1

W depicts distant past before recorded history i.e. prehistoric days of dinosaurs)

## (14)

2

W of past events before 1900 but after recorded history (i.e. Romans/Greeks, cowboys/indians)

## (15)

3

W of recent past; events after 1900 up to near present (i.e. W W II, Nixon's impeachment)

## (16)

4

W of present; events occurring in the last week or where the theme does not clearly dictate past/future

Code # \_\_\_\_\_

Rater \_\_\_\_\_

(17)

5

W of future;  
events of things  
in the future that  
not possible yet  
(i.e. space worlds)

(18) Theme Complexity:

1

Theme very simple;  
merely descriptive  
of items

2

Theme generally  
simple though a  
few aspects more  
elaborate

3

Theme somewhat  
complex with  
some elaboration  
of ideas

4

Theme  
highly com-  
plex and  
elaborate

(19) Differentiation of main figure:

1

One clearly differ-  
entiated MF which  
remains in central  
focus throughout  
the story

2

A well defined MF  
though focus oc-  
casionally shifts

3

A MF can be dis-  
tinguished but  
other figures are  
also in the fore-  
ground or become  
MF's for a time

4

No MF is  
distin-  
guishable;  
or differ-  
ent fig-  
ures be-  
come MF's  
with equal  
emphasis

(20) Differentiation of intra-character qualities: Score the highest degree of differentiation of qualities/attributes/roles/behaviors for any character (i.e. good-bad, happy-sad, cruel-kind). ("Character" includes nature/object/animal/human.)

1

Characters have one  
extreme and/or ex-  
aggerated quality  
(i.e. all good/all  
bad); one quality  
is given to each  
character or group  
of characters

2

Characters have  
extreme qualities  
though on occas-  
ion manifest a  
different quali-  
ty than the domi-  
nant one

3

Characters have  
different quali-  
ties on several  
occasions though  
still portray one  
dominant quality

4

Characters  
have dif-  
ferent  
qualities  
in re-  
sponse to  
different  
situations;  
qualities  
span a  
wide spec-  
trum of  
type and  
degree

Code # \_\_\_\_\_

Rater \_\_\_\_\_

NOT APPLY

- (21) Emotional differentiation: Rated for story as a whole; include pleasure/pain and any behaviors that allude to affects such as smiling/laughing/crying.

1	2	3	4
No mention of any feeling, affect, emotion	One/a few feelings mentioned	Several feelings mentioned on a number of occasions	Different feelings and shades of emotions described often

- (22) Action vs. thought processes: Score the highest degree of complexity found in the story regardless of which character is involved. "Thought processes" here refer to planning, evaluating, reflecting, pondering, scheming, deducing, analyzing, remembering, forgetting.

1	2	3	4
No mention of thinking; characters act with no reference to their thoughts	Thinking mentioned one/a few times	Thinking mentioned on quite a few occasions	Thinking mentioned and related to past/present/future behaviors consistently

- (23) Use of imaginative figures: "Imaginative figures" are characters the child alludes to that are not represented by actual, physical objects (i.e. "the guy driving the car" when no physical object is in the car).

1	2	3	4
No use of imaginative figures	Imaginative figures referred to a few times	Imaginative figures referred to on several occasions	Imaginative figures referred to on many occasions

Code # \_\_\_\_\_

Rater \_\_\_\_\_

- (24) Use of magic: "Magic" as supernatural powers/abilities/means not possible in reality used to do/gain something (spells, hexes, incantations, sorcery, granting wishes). Not just Superman being able to fly/having super strength but specifically magical powers/acts to gain an end.

1	2	3	4
No use of magic	Magic occurs a few times	Magic occurs quite a few times	Magic occurs many times, dominates the story

- (25) Use of objects in ways other than specified: Where child is clearly aware of the general use of an object but uses it in a different way or uses clay to mould something that's wanted but not in the cabinet (i.e. taking a house and explicitly stating that it is being used as a table).

1	2	3	4
Objects never used for anything other than what designated	Objects/clay used in different than designated way one/a few times	Objects/clay used in different ways on several occasions	Objects/clay used in different ways on numerous occasions

- (26) Propensity for imaginative play:

1	2	3	4
Child shows little ability for imaginative play	Child shows some ability for imaginative play	Child shows quite a bit of ability for imaginative play and creative theme construction	Child shows a great deal of ability for imaginative play creating rich, elaborate, highly involved themes and stories



Code # \_\_\_\_\_

Rater \_\_\_\_\_

(27) Ability to move in/out of fantasy:

1

Child shows very  
little ability to  
become involved in  
fantasy or becomes  
totally immersed  
in fantasy and  
shows very little  
ability to pull  
out on own

2

Child shows some  
ability on a few  
occasions to move  
in and out of  
fantasy

3

Child shows quite  
a bit of ability  
to move in and  
out of fantasy

4

Child shows  
a high  
ability to  
move in and  
out of fan-  
tasy, be-  
coming  
deeply in-  
volved in  
fantasy  
while also  
pulling out  
to be de-  
scriptive,  
self re-  
flective,  
or other-  
wise relate  
to E in  
present,  
realistic,  
here-now  
way

Code # \_\_\_\_\_

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF WORLD:

Use of sand:

<u>Only place objects on</u>	<u>Patting, stroking, smoothing</u>
<u>Mounds, hills, poles</u>	<u>Pouring, filling</u>
<u>Caves, tunnels</u>	<u>Digging, excavating</u>
<u>Roads, rivers</u>	<u>Deeply embedding objects</u> (short of actually burying)
<u>Working with objects</u>	
<u>Marking, tracing patterns</u>	<u>Burying</u>

Types of landscapes created:

\_\_\_ Ocean    \_\_\_ Lake    \_\_\_ River    \_\_\_ Hill/Mountain    \_\_\_ Desert    \_\_\_ Forest  
 \_\_\_ Jungle    \_\_\_ Valley/Canyon    \_\_\_ Cave    Other:

### Types of city environments:

Residential    Business    Social institutions    Transportation facilities

Park    Zoo    Road    Farm    Monument

Other:

No. of landscapes created: \_\_\_\_\_

No. of city environments: \_\_\_\_\_

Code # \_\_\_\_\_

OBJECTS USED:People

Armymen.....Total: \_\_\_\_  
 Cowboys.....Total: \_\_\_\_  
 Indians.....Total: \_\_\_\_  
 Superheroes.....Total: \_\_\_\_  
 Civil servants.....Total: \_\_\_\_  
 Other.....Total: \_\_\_\_  
 Sum: \_\_\_\_

Animals

Domestic/farm.....Total: \_\_\_\_  
 Tame.....Total: \_\_\_\_  
 Wild.....Total: \_\_\_\_  
 Fantastic/prehstrc..Total: \_\_\_\_  
 Fish.....Total: \_\_\_\_  
 Crustaceans.....Total: \_\_\_\_  
 Sum: \_\_\_\_

Transportation

Private cars.....Total: \_\_\_\_  
 Civil servants.....Total: \_\_\_\_  
 Construction.....Total: \_\_\_\_  
 Army.....Total: \_\_\_\_  
 Planes.....Total: \_\_\_\_  
 Helicopters.....Total: \_\_\_\_  
 Trains.....Total: \_\_\_\_  
 Boats.....Total: \_\_\_\_  
 Rockets.....Total: \_\_\_\_  
 Other.....Total: \_\_\_\_  
 Sum: \_\_\_\_

Landscape--city

Instutnl bldings....Total: \_\_\_\_  
 Other bldgings.....Total: \_\_\_\_  
 Fences.....Total: \_\_\_\_  
 Other.....Total: \_\_\_\_  
 Sum: \_\_\_\_

Landscape--nature

Trees.....Total: \_\_\_\_  
 Shrubbery.....Total: \_\_\_\_  
 Rocks.....Total: \_\_\_\_  
 Sum: \_\_\_\_

Miscellaneous

Food.....Total: \_\_\_\_  
 Fire/explosions.....Total: \_\_\_\_  
 Tombstones.....Total: \_\_\_\_  
 Clay/card.....Total: \_\_\_\_  
 Other.....Total: \_\_\_\_  
 Sum: \_\_\_\_

Total objects used....Total: \_\_\_\_  
 Total categories used.Total: \_\_\_\_  
 Total subctgrs used...Total: \_\_\_\_

Child states W in:

\_\_\_\_ Past \_\_\_\_ Present \_\_\_\_ Future  
 \_\_\_\_ Morning \_\_\_\_ Noon \_\_\_\_ Night  
 \_\_\_\_ Would \_\_\_\_ Would not want to  
                     be in scene

Who/what/where would be:

Building time: \_\_\_\_

Time including questions: \_\_\_\_

## APPENDIX G

### Sample Characteristics

## Sample Characteristics

No.	Subject	Father		Mother		Siblings			
		Age	Occupation	Education	Age	Occupation	Education	Sex	Age
1	9-3	36	Transportation Supervisor	14	29	Program Analyst	B.A.	F	7
2	9-7	38	Teacher	M.A.	33	Teacher	14	-	-
3	8-9	27	Groundsman	7	23	Not employed outside home	12	F	9 months
4	8-2	37	Teacher	M.A.	35	Salesperson	14	M	10, 12
5	9-3	40		B.A.	39	Not employed outside home	12	F	13, 18
6	8-0	33	Archivist	Ph.D.	35	Not employed outside home	Ph.D.	M	3
7	7-1		(not made available)		30	(not made available)		-	-
8	8-10	36	Building Tradesman	B.A.	34	Not employed outside home	14	F	4, 13
9	9-6	36	Librarian	M.A.	34	Nurse	M.A.	F	6
10	7-0	31	Nurse	14	31	Secretary	14	F	9
								M	8

## APPENDIX H

T-values for Differences between World View Sessions

# APPENDIX H

## T-values for Differences between World View Sessions

T-values for differences between WVT sessions  
on fantasy play categories.

Category	WVT 1 - 2	T-value WVT 1 - 3	WVT 2 - 3
Aggression	.46	1.02	.68
Benevolence	-.99	-1.06	-.02
Construction	-.07	-.37	-.32
Dominance	-.26	.43	.52
Adequacy	-1.09*	-.91	-.35
Submission	.80	.51	-.43
Dependency	.43	.00	-.43

\* p < .30, highest significance reached

## APPENDIX I

Correlations between World View Categories  
and Factors of Positive/Negative Caregiving Behaviors  
on the CRCP



# APPENDIX Ia

Correlations between fantasy play categories and factors of positive caregiving behaviors on the CRCP.

CRCP Factors	Aggrssn	Benvlnc	Constrctn	Domnc	Adqucy	Assrtn	Submsn	Dndcy	Prpnsty
Fa Pro- Socl	.05	.41	.23	-.31	.14	-.26	.46	-.25	-.07
Mo Pro- Socl	-.23	-.24	.20	-.39	.23	.21	.34	-.29	-.24
Fa Aggrssn	-.08	.38	.21	-.44	.02	-.40	.26	-.62*	-.17
Mo Aggrssn	-.21	.05	-.30	-.12	-.12	-.02	.32	-.42	-.16
Fa Intrnl Rewrds	-.04	.58*	-.10	-.25	.02	-.46	.46	-.35	-.12
Mo Intrnl Rewrds	-.28	.19	-.26	-.13	-.29	-.23	.41	-.27	-.23
Fa Indctv Dscpln	-.30	.003	-.10	-.39	-.34	-.52	.65**	-.45	-.50
Mo Indctv Dscpln	.29	-.35	-.13	.67**	-.13	.73@	-.18	.48	.33
Fa Proud	-.19	.46	.19	-.48	.13	-.41	.17	-.38	-.26
Mo Proud	-.66**	-.06	.25	-.76@@	-.17	-.73@	-.13	-.42	-.55*
Fa Self Control	-.10	.10	-.49	-.34	-.23	-.37	.22	-.51	-.45
Mo Self Control	.12	.25	.19	.44	.03	.31	.36	.22	.22

\*p .05

\*\*p .02

@p .008

@p .005

# APPENDIX Ib

Correlations between fantasy play categories and  
factors of negative caregiving behaviors on the CRCP

CRCP Factors	Aggrssn	Benvlnc	Constrctn	Domnc	Adqucy	Assrtn	Submsn	Dpndcy	Prpnsty
Fa Crtcz	-.08	-.07	-.41	.41	-.19	.36	-.17	.30	.003
Mo Crtcz	-.17	.39	.20	-.29	.15	-.32	-.09		
Fa Extrl Rwrds	.29	.30	-.25	.43	.06	.19	-.51	.33	.29
Mo Extrl Rwrds	-.15	.14	.30	-.22	-.14	-.43	-.48	.10	-.06
Fa Rejctng	-.001	-.42	-.57*	.31	-.15	.36	-.29	-.02	-.03
Mo Rejctng	.18	.51	-.17	.02	.27	-.03	-.41	.11	.31
Fa Shaming	-.20	-.14	.29	.34	-.30	.27	-.18	.26	-.12
Mo Shaming	-.09	.46	.20	-.24	.20	-.27	-.10	-.02	.13
Fa Take Pstv Grntd	.34	.30	-.60**	.49	-.11	.40	-.13	.29	.18
Mo Take Pstv Grntd	-.03	.51	-.10	-.36	.05	-.45	-.42	-.22	-.05
Fa Do Nothing	.12	-.41	-.44	.35	-.23	.52	-.15	.19	.07
Mo Do Nothing	.08	.12	-.03	-.09	.23	.06	.00	.30	.16

\*p .04

\*\*p .03

## APPENDIX J

Correlations between Aggression and Benevolence  
Subcategories and Parents' Perceptions  
of Their Caregiving Behaviors



## APPENDIX K

Caregiver Behaviors and Children's Psycho-social  
Adjustment: Toward a Synthesis of Piagetian  
and Humanistic Perspectives

## APPENDIX K

### Caregiver Behaviors and Children's Psycho-social Adjustment: Toward a Synthesis of Piagetian and Humanistic Perspectives

The current variegated finding brazenly point out the tremendous complexity of the factors involved in the development and/or maintenance of psycho-social competence in human beings. A more detailed discussion will be made here. Competence would seem to be resultant from the dynamic, mutually related interface of 3 dimensions: (1) the individual's constitutionally predisposed means of perceiving and responding to the environment (Freedman, 1979; Thomas, et al., 1968); (2) life events, circumstances, and experiences, including those having occurred by mere whims of fate and fortune; (3) the behaviors of significant others towards the individual. The current investigation attempted to further elucidate the role of the latter of these 3 dimensions, being highly cognizant of the fact that only a limited amount of the variance could be attributed to this variable. Further explication of this hypothesized relationship between caregiver behaviors and the development of competence will be made at this point. The line of reasoning here will be an attempted synthesis of Piagetian and humanistic perspectives, thus a definition of competence from a Piagetian viewpoint need be given. Competence, in this framework is defined as the maximization of potential responding through the equilibration of assimilative and accommodative capacities, thereby allowing for the greatest possibility of effective adaptation to occur in any given situation (Piaget, 1957; Weiner, 1975).

In the previous review of the literature on caregiver behaviors associated with positive psycho-emotional development in children, 3 global factors were discerned. These were empathy, warmth, or acceptance, firm setting of limits with clearly defined rules and expectations, and flexibility and encouragement of autonomy within the prescribed limits. The interplay of these 3 factors in the development of competence is perhaps as follows: (1) Empathy and the communication of acknowledgment, acceptance and valuing of the child's experiencing fosters a sense of psychological safety, a sense that one's thoughts, feelings and desires are valuable, that one's being as a unique individual is worthwhile (Axline, 1947; Maslow, 1962; Moustakas, 1959; Rogers, 1961; Stollak, 1978).<sup>1</sup> These positive early perceptions and experiences of oneself, acquired through the perceived reactions of the environment, constellate into a primitive self-schema, or "core-me" (Gould, 1972) that includes the attributions of goodness, "entitlement" (Gould, 1972), and potential masterfulness. Such trust and confidence in oneself and the environment augments exploration and manipulation of the social/material world, thereby increasing accommodation and assimilation of new schemas. Equilibration--the adaptive balancing of accommodation and assimilation (Piaget, 1957; Weiner, 1975)--is also heightened by the affirmation of self, since the child is not compelled to be over accommodative out of fear that the environment will be overwhelming if not molded to, nor be over assimilative due to a fragile sense of self that necessitates the environment to conform to its schemas for fear that accommodation would result in a giving over or loss of identity.<sup>2</sup>

(2) Firm, consistent setting of limits with clearly specified rules and expectations would seem to aid the child in adaptive accommodation by teaching him/her effective ways of acting upon the environment and thereby increasing the assimilation of new schemas. The predictability of the limits would probably also enhance the sense of safety since they would give a clear framework within which to act with predictable consequences.

(3) The encouragement of autonomy within prescribed limits expands accommodation as the child tries out and develops new modes of responding, again assimilating new schemas in the process. Such allowance for experimentation within set boundaries also constellates into the "core-me" the attribution of competency, masterfulness, and effectiveness.

Thus it would appear that psychological safety and the encouragement of autonomous exploration are necessary, though not sufficient, conditions for the development and maintenance of psycho-social competence. As Stollak (1978) points out, however, competence is also developed through the child seeing caregivers engaging in competent behaviors with others, in addition to him/herself. The child thus models after such behaviors, thereby assimilating new schemas and expanding his/her modes of accommodation and adaptation.



## FOOTNOTES

<sup>1</sup>While expressed empathy and the communication of acknowledgment and acceptance of others' experiencing would appear in general to be conducive to psychological growth and a sense of psychological safety, I have on occasion experienced verbalized empathy as something of a psychological assault to the integrity of my self-boundary--whether the empathy was accurate or not. Such empathy was experienced as intrusive, engulfing, and violating a sanctimonious boundary of self. Perhaps this echoes a developmentally earlier phenomenon, beginning in the "terrible twos" (Erikson's (1958) second stage of development involving autonomy vs. shame and doubt), in which the child begins to define a budding sense of self by asserting him/herself against the parents and the environment. It is in this regard that Lang (1962) asserts the importance of the first lie as being a primary experiencing of a separate, inviolable self that is at that moment individuated from a hitherto omnipotent, all-knowing parent. Thus initial dependency, expressed in "yes," progresses to a budding independency, asserted in "no," and finally reaches an interdependency in which there is a strong enough sense of identity that either compliance or defiance can be made without a loss of boundary.\* Nonetheless, there are times in which identity feels threatened rather than affirmed by verbalized accurate empathy.

<sup>2</sup>Over accommodation would thus appear to be an attempt to define, delineate, and protect the self by fusing with the environment, while over assimilation would seem to achieve definition, delineation, and protection of self through opposition to the environment. The former is perhaps a more regressive mechanism, reminiscent of symbiotic, Stage I issues (Erikson, 1958), while the latter seems more characteristic of Stage II power struggles. Thus forms of pathology and coping styles can be defined by the preponderance of accommodative vs. assimilative modes of responding (Weiner, 1975).

<sup>3</sup>Interesting to note is that even Pines' (1979) research on "invulnerables"--children raised under extremely difficult

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circumstances who nonetheless psychoemotionally flourish-- found that in every case there appeared to be at least one supportive, nurturing relationship with a significant other, usually outside of the home.

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