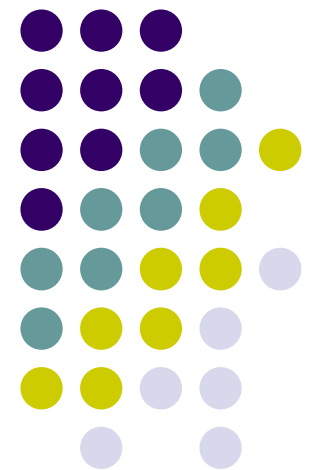
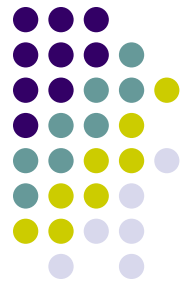


Family

Karrie P Walters
2005



Family life in America at the end of the 20th century is immensely more complex than it was half a century ago. Yet despite dramatic changes in the social landscape, the nation's laws and regulations are written with the 1950s model of the family in mind.



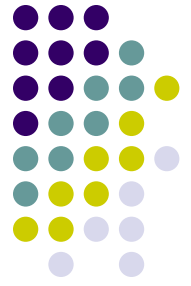
- **Stepfamilies:** 39% of all American women and 30% of all children are likely to spend time in a stepfamily.
- **Single Parent Families:** 9 million families with children under 18 are headed by a single parent, a 200 percent increase since 1970.
- **Adult Children:** 18 million adult children live with their parents, 43 percent more than in 1970.
- **Gay Couples:** 1.8 million households consist of gay or lesbian couples.
- **Parentless Children:** 1.4 million children have neither a mother nor a father present in their home.
- **Households caring for an elderly parent:** One in four in 1998 versus one in 12 in 1988.

“The good ol’ days”



- In 1959, one third of American children--and one quarter of all Americans, and 50% of African-American families—lived below the poverty line.
- Fewer than half the students who entered high school in the late 1940s ever finished.
- In 1940, one child in ten did not live with either birth parent. Today, the figure is one in 25.
- A higher proportion of people report their marriage is happy today than did in 1957. One half of the marriages that began in the 1950s ended in divorce (about the same as today)
- In 1952, there were 2 million more wives working out side the home than at the peak of WWII.
- Women in the 1950s who failed to conform to the June Cleaver stereotype of housewife and mother were severely criticized and men who failed to marry were considered immature and selfish.
- In 1957 there were more than twice as many births to girls and young women aged 15-19 than in 1983. The number of illegitimate babies put up for adoption rose 80% from 1944 to 1955.

Myths and Misconceptions about America's Changing Families



- Few subjects are more shrouded in myths and misconceptions than the state of the family. Sensationalized newspaper and television reports have led many Americans to conclude:
 - That divorce and family breakdown are recent phenomena;
 - That teenage pregnancy is much more prevalent than it was in the past;
 - That African American families are breaking down.
- A historical perspective reveals that while American family life is certainly changing, there is no clear-cut evidence that family life is growing less stable.
- Unrealistic family myths distort the public's views of marriage, divorce, unwed mothers and sex.



Myths vs. Reality

- **Myth:** Families of the past didn't have problems like families do today.
- **Reality:** Desertion, child abuse, spousal battering, and alcohol or drug addictions always have troubled significant numbers of families.



Myths vs. Reality

- **Myth:** The 1950s male breadwinner family was always the traditional form in America.
- **Reality:** Not until the 1920s did a majority of children come to live in a home where the husband was the breadwinner, the wife was a full time homemaker, and the kids could go to school instead of working for wages.



Myths vs. Reality

- **Myth:** The sexual revolution of the 1960s caused the rise in unwed motherhood.
- **Reality:** The sharpest rate of increase in unwed motherhood occurred between 1940 and 1958, when it tripled. The rate leveled off from 1960 to 1975, then doubled between 1975 and 1992.



Myths vs. Reality

- **Myth:** The collapse of the traditional family is the main source of America's social and economic problems.
- **Reality:** Most poverty in America is caused by changes in wage and job structures, not family structure.



Status of Marriage

- Married couples still account for more than half of the 102.5 million households in the United States - but only barely, with 53 percent of the total in 1998. In 1970, nearly three quarters of the 63 million American households were married couples.
- Both men and women enter marriage with higher expectations for interpersonal communication, intimacy, and sexual gratification than they did even three or four decades ago.
- Social support networks and extended kin ties have weakened, often leaving families feeling overburdened and overwhelmed.



Functional Families

- The most profound difference between functional and dysfunctional families lies not in family structure, but in the nature and quality of relationships within individual homes.
- We cannot measure family strength and well-being by how closely a family's structure approximates a sitcom ideal, but rather by how well a family functions every day. Family processes, not composition, are the key variables.

So...What makes a family strong?



- Strong, healthy families have nine traits in common. These traits have been found in families of different types, races, social backgrounds, nationalities, and religious beliefs.
 - caring and appreciation
 - time together
 - encouragement
 - commitment
 - communication
 - cope with change
 - spirituality
 - community and family ties
 - clear role

Krysan, Moore, & Zill, 1990

Five Essential Roles of the Family

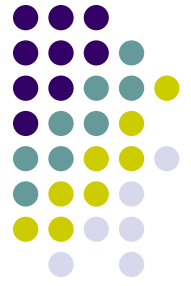


There are many roles within a family; however, researchers have identified the following five roles as being essential for a healthy family. :

- Provision of Resources
- Nurturance and Support
- Life Skills Development
- Maintenance and Management of the Family System
- Sexual Gratification of Marital Partners

Epstein, N.B., Bishop, D., Ryan, C., Miller &
Keitner, G (1993)

Essential Roles of Family



- *Provision of Resources*
 - Providing resources, such as money, food, clothing, and shelter, for all family members is one of the most basic, yet important, roles within a family. This is primarily an instrumental role.
- *Nurturance and Support*
 - Nurturing and supporting other family members is primarily an affective role and includes providing comfort, warmth, and reassurance for family members. Examples of this role are a parent comforting a child after he/she has a bad day at school, or family members supporting one another after the death of a loved one.

Epstein, N.B., Bishop, D., Ryan, C., Miller &
Keitner, G (1993)

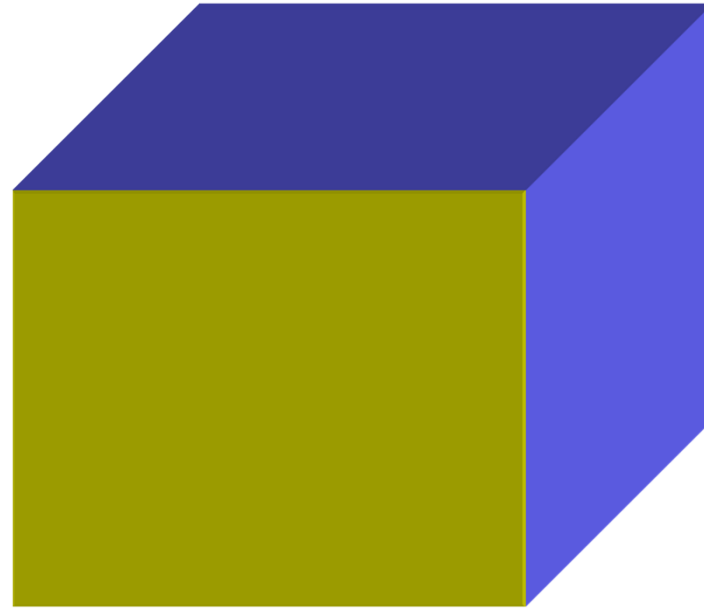
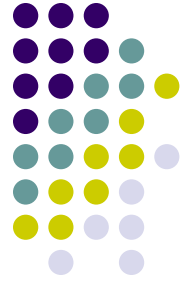
Essential Roles of Family



- *Life Skills Development*
 - The life skills development role includes the physical emotional, educational, and social development of children and adults. Examples of this role are a parent helping a child make it through school, or a parent helping a young adult child decide on a career path.
- *Maintenance and Management of the Family System*
 - This fourth role involves many tasks, including leadership, decision making, handling family finances, and maintaining appropriate roles with respect to extended family, friends and neighbors. Other responsibilities of this role include maintaining discipline and enforcing behavioral standards.
- *Sexual Gratification of Marital Partners*
 - A satisfying sexual relationship is one of the keys to a quality marital relationship. This role involves meeting sexual needs in a manner that is satisfying to both spouses.

Epstein, N.B., Bishop, D., Ryan, C., Miller &
Keitner, G (1993)

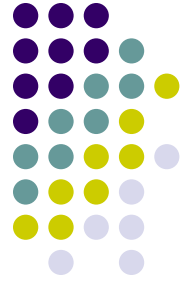
Three dimensions of child rearing:



McWhirter, McWhirter, McWhirter,
McWhirter (1998)

Support

High -----Low



Warmth

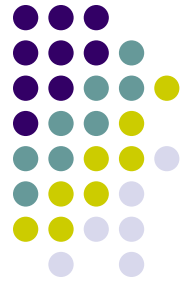
Hostility

- Understanding
- Approval
- Much praise
- Little punishment
- Acceptance
- Affection
- Child-centered home

- Considerable disapproval and punishment
- Little or no understanding, acceptance, affection, or praise

Anxiety

High -----Low



Anxious Emotional Involvement

- Considerable emotion related to child
- Solicitous behavior/attitude
- Protectiveness, “babying”

Calm Detachment

- Logical and controlled behavior
- Never punishes when angry
- Lets child suffer consequences of his/her mistakes

Control

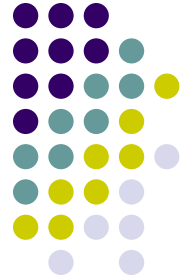
High ----- Low

Restrictive

- Many rules and strict enforcement in most areas
- Emphasis on obedience, manners, boundaries
- Intolerance of noise and aggression towards peers, siblings, and parents

Permissive

- Few rules or restraints
- Little concern about impulses, manners, obedience, or noise



Organized and Effective

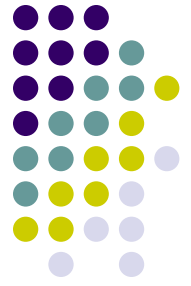
(Warmth, Calm Detachment, Restrictive)



- Parents who occupy this extreme position tend to control, shape, and evaluate the behavior of the child according to a high standard of conduct. The parents are positively involved with the child and use rewards, praise, and encouragement to engage the child. They discuss issues, values, and behavior without emotional turmoil.
- “High-Achieving Conformers”: Kids raised by these parents tend to be highly socialized and conforming. Often model children and adolescents, they may experience some internal conflict and may be timid and withdrawn but are rarely a problem to society. Children in this category are high in compliance, dependency, responsibility, leadership and conscience.

Democratic

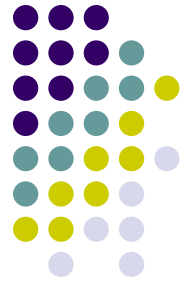
(Warmth, Calm Detachment, Permissive)



- Parents usually encourage or permit discussion of family rules and regulations and tolerate a fairly wide range of behavior. The home environment is generally positive. The parents logically discuss the reasons a behavior is unacceptable.
- “Friendly, Achieving Bohemians”: These kids tend to be active, socially outgoing, and friendly. Often they take an aggressive stance on social issues and assume adult role-taking behavior quite early. They are often creative, independent individuals who achieve when and if they decide it is important to do so.

Overprotective

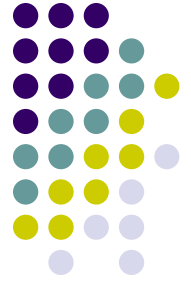
(Warmth, Anxious Emotional Involvement, Restrictive)



- These parents offer consistent support along with many rules and regulations, but they do so with inappropriate emotional involvement and high levels of anxiety. They are often described as a mother bear (or father bear) protecting the young against a hostile environment
- **“Conforming, Dependent Children”**: These youngsters are likely to show high compliance. They follow rules closely and with some anxiety. They may also be submissive, dependent, withdrawn, and timid. They frequently have a difficult time becoming independent.

Indulgent

(Warmth, Anxious Emotional Involvement, Permissive)



- The parents in this area can be said to spoil their children. The children have few rules, break those that they do have with few consequences, and tend to control the emotions and behavior of the parents
- “Spoiled”: Often independent and created, they can be disobedient, impudent, demanding, and ‘bratty.’ As they get older, they may develop antisocial, aggressive, or narcissistic behavior and then expect to be protected from the consequences.

Rigid and Controlling

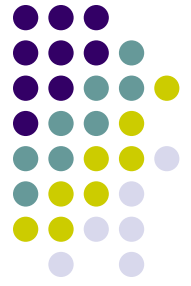
(Hostility, Calm Detachment, Restrictive)



- These parents appear to be cruel in their interactions with their children. They generally have a large number of rules and regulations that they enforce in a cold and rigid manner. The parents sometimes appear to relish punishing their children for misbehavior.
- “**Delinquent Runaways**”: These children often exhibit considerable fear and rejection of authority figures. Outwardly conforming, they may develop a repertoire of manipulative behaviors that passively express their aggression. Ultimately the child may explode into highly delinquent behavior or escape by running away.

Neglecting

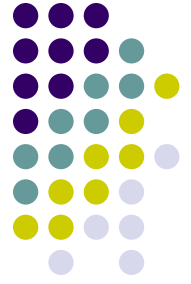
(Hostility, Calm Detachment, Permissive)



- These parents allow their children to run free with few or no regulations. In extreme cases the child's basic needs are not met because the parent is so uninvolved or hostile that the child is rejected and neglected.
- **“Neglected”**: These kids are poorly equipped to take on adult roles and may eventually reject society's standards. They may develop self-punitive and self-defeating behavior, becoming isolated and socially withdrawn.

Authoritarian and Hostile-Neurotic

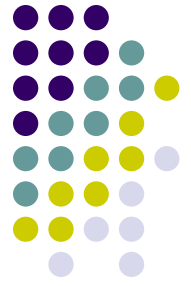
(Hostility, Anxious Emotional Involvement, Restrictive)



- These parents establish many rules and regulations and rigidly enforce the, often with much anger, shouting, and physical punishment. Extreme behaviors in this area may constitute child abuse.
- “Abused/Aggressive Children”: These children are fearful and angry and may eventually vent their rage against society. Often their rebellion takes the form of highly aggressive, delinquent, acting-out behavior. Some of these children run away.

Anxious and Neurotic

(Hostility, Anxious Emotional Involvement, Permissive)



- These parents are potential child batterers, and in most cases they exert little control over their children and exhibit little care for them. They tend to direct a lot of anger at their children (and others). These parents may do a lot of ineffectual nagging and emotional bettering with little expectation of modifying the child's behavior.
- “Emotionally Disturbed”: These kids tend to be neurotic and disturbed. Often socially withdrawn, they may have poor peer-group attachment characterized by shyness and quarreling. They are likely to be unable to assume adult roles and to have poor self-esteem.

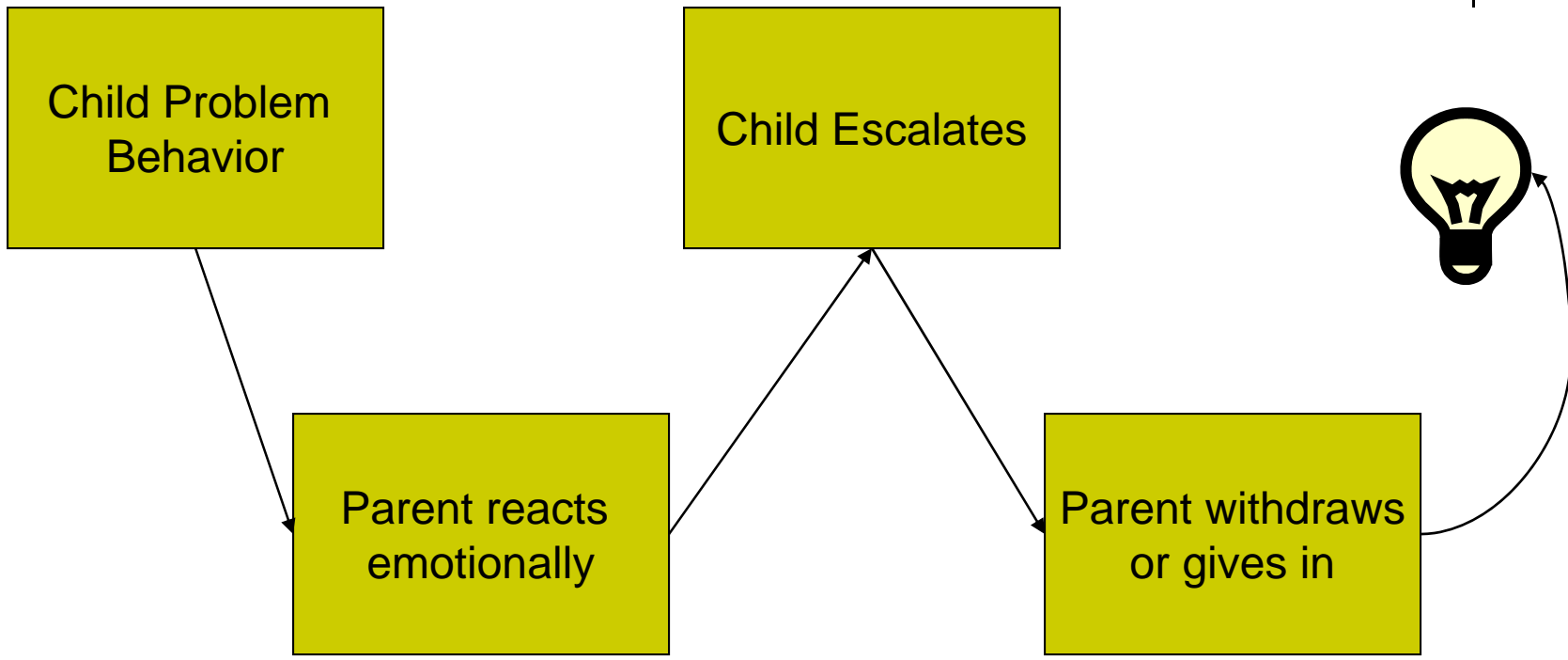


Contingent vs. Non-Contingent Discipline

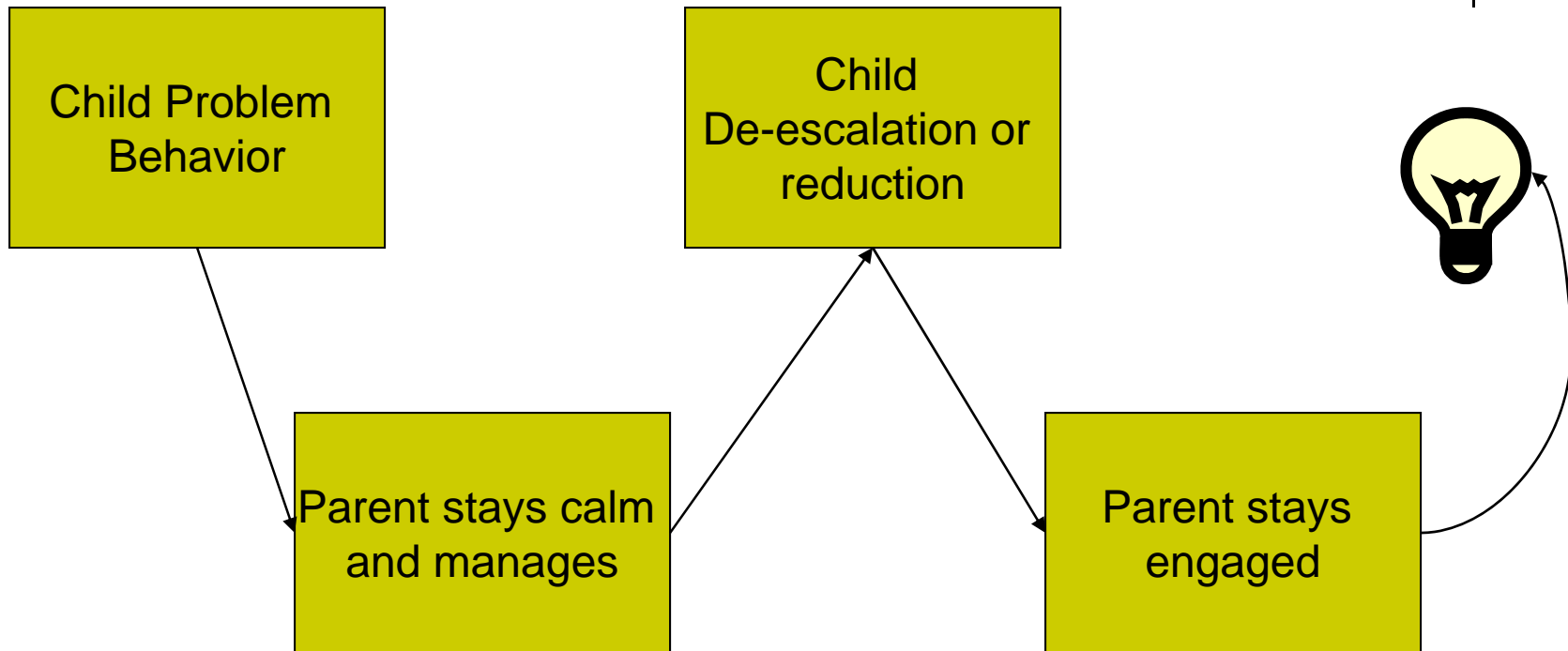
Example: The rule is “first eat your veggies, then get dessert”

- A is clearly linked to B
 - Kid eats veggies, she gets dessert.
 - Kid doesn't eat veggies, she doesn't get dessert
- A is not linked to B
 - Kid eats veggies, but mom doesn't give dessert because kid didn't say please.
 - Kids doesn't eat veggies, but mom gives him dessert anyway because he started to cry.

Coercive Cycle

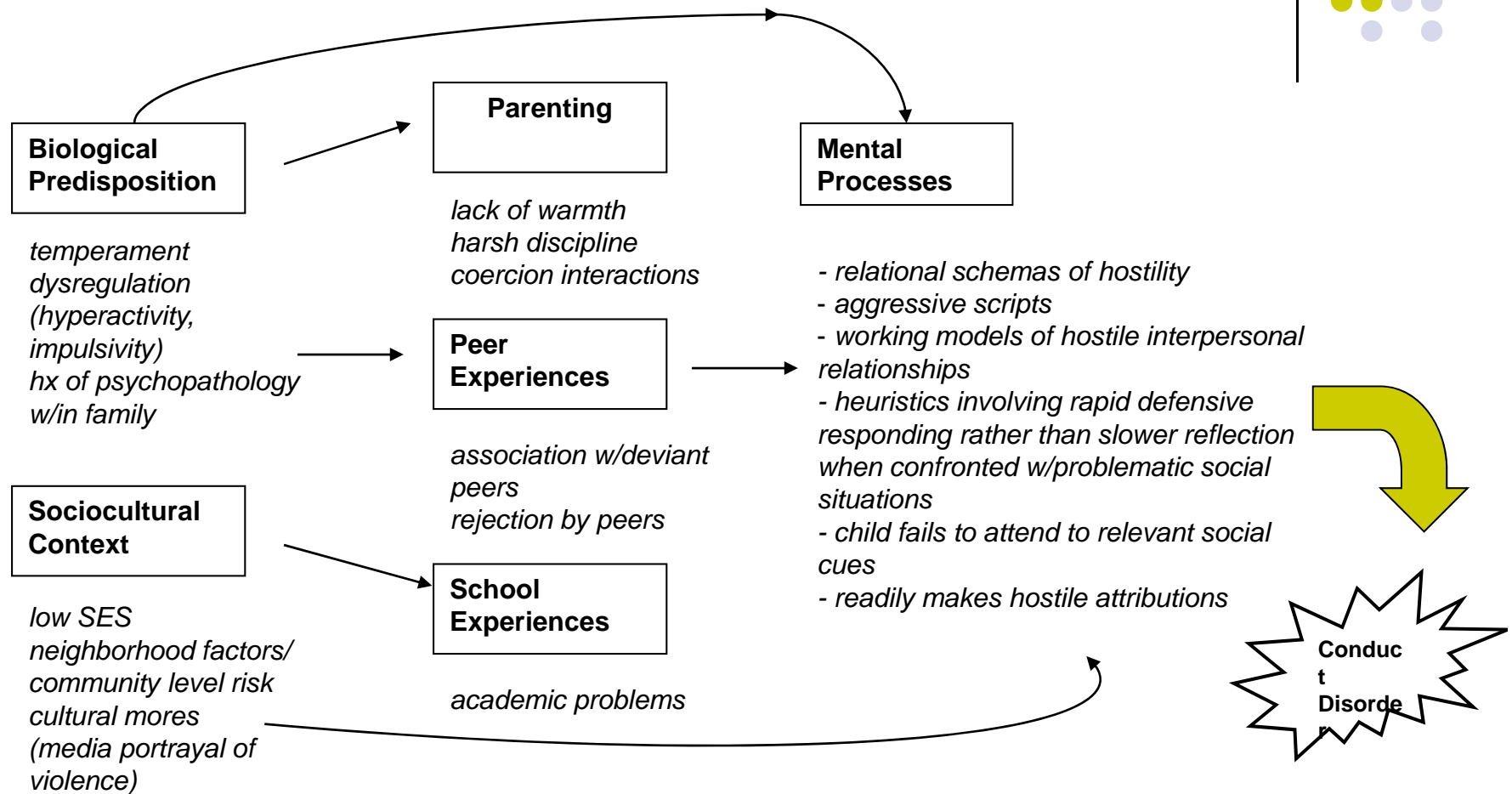


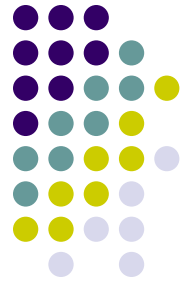
Positive Behavior Cycle



Biopsychosocial Model of Development Conduct Disorder

Dodge & Petit (2003)





How much impact?

- Patterson research (1997):
 - temperament does influence a child's behavior – but how the family manages this temperament play a much bigger influence on later behavior.
 - that variables such as divorce, parent stress, etc, only produce long-term negative outcomes for kids is these factors cause disruptions in positive family management