

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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"Peer Behavior Conceptualized as a Variable Influencing Infant and Toddler Development," by Tony Apolloni and Thomas P. Cooke, (*Journal*, January 1975) comments on a very important area of study. The authors have critically evaluated the past research and have brought out some crucial issues in this area. However, while they have accused child development researchers of ignoring this topic, they have themselves ignored the growing body of literature on early peer relations in developmental psychology. Researchers such as Carol Eckerman, Lee Lee, Michael Lewis, and Edward Mueller have been pursuing this area in much detail. Articles on the topic, many of which are as yet unpublished, include the following:

ECKERMAN, C. 1973. Competence in early social relations. Paper presented at American Psychological Association annual meeting, Montreal.

ECKERMAN, C., WHATLEY, J. AND KUTZ, S. 1975. Growth of social play with peers during the second year of life. *Develpm. Psychol.* 11:42-49.

HORNER, T., WHITESIDE, M. AND BUSCH, F. 1974. From the family to the friend: factors in the developmental line of egocentricity to companionship. Unpublished manuscript, University of Michigan.

LEE, L. 1973. Social encounters of infants: the beginnings of popularity. Unpublished manuscript, Cornell University.

LENSSEN, B. 1973. Infants' reactions to peer strangers. *Dissertation Abstr. Inter.* 33:6062B.

LEWIS, J. 1974. The relation of individual temperament to initial social behavior. Unpublished manuscript, Ohio State University.

LEWIS, M. AND BROOKS, J. 1975. Infants' social perception: a constructivist view. In *Infant Perception*, L. Cohen and P. Salapatek, eds. Academic Press, New York.

LEWIS, M. AND BROOKS, J. 1974. Self, other and fear: infants' reactions to people. In *The Origins of Human Behavior: Fear*, M. Lewis and L. Rosenblum, eds. John Wiley, New York.

MUELLER, E. AND DE STEFANO, C. The origins of toddlers' social interactions with their peers. *Early Child Develpm. and Care.* (in press)

MUELLER, E. AND RICH, A. 1973. Clustering and socially-directed behaviors in a toddlers playgroup. Paper presented at Society for Research in Child Development biennial meeting, Philadelphia.

SHAPIRO, L. 1969. A study of peer group interaction in 18- and 28-month-old children. Unpublished doctoral dissertation, Harvard University.

SIMNER, M. 1971. Newborn's response to the cry of another infant. *Develpm. Psychol.* 5: 136-150.

VINCZE, M. 1971. The social contacts of infants and young children reared together. *Early Child Develpm. and Care* 1:99-109.

This is clearly a growing area of research in developmental psychology. Although it was neglected in the past, as Drs. Apolloni and Cooke suggested, the situation is changing rapidly.

Laura E. Levine
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