

EMOTIONAL NEEDS OF A CHILD

Physical growth is not the only development a child undergoes. Hand in hand with the needs of physical health are the needs for emotional health.

A child is born without any sense of right or wrong — he does not inherit habits, either good or bad, but learns what is expected of him from his parents.

What are the needs? Most world authorities have reduced them to eight: love, security, protection, acceptance, independence, faith, guidance and discipline.

Most children show difficult behaviour or nervous symptoms as they face difficulties. Generally, these are not serious and disappear as the child learns to cope with stress. However, if over a long period the behaviour is difficult in a number of ways, or there are many nervous symptoms, parents should:

Seek the teacher's advice or services.

Consult their doctor.

Contact a Child Health Center.

DISCIPLINE

Every child needs the example set by adults that it is possible to live in harmony with others, and that the thoughts and feelings of others must be considered.

INDEPENDENCE

Every child needs the knowledge that his parents trust him to do things for himself, and by himself, and that they have confidence in his attempts to develop new abilities.

GUIDANCE

Every child needs the knowledge that there is a limit to what he is allowed to do and that his parents will be consistent in applying this limit, and that although he may have angry feelings, he will not be allowed to vent them unreasonably on others.

ACCEPTANCE

Every child needs the belief that his parents like him for himself, just the way he is, that they like him all the time, and not only when he has been good (according to their ideas), and that even when he has been bad they will always accept him.

LOVE

Every child needs the feeling that his parents love him no matter what he does — that at least to someone he matters very much.

SECURITY

Every child needs the

knowledge that he belongs, that in his home he is secure and that when he needs his parents they will be there to help him.

PROTECTION

Every child needs the feeling that with his parents he is safe from harm, and that he will always have their help in facing new problems.

FAITH

Every child needs the belief that human values are worthwhile, and that there are moral standards which he must observe. — *Variety*, November 3, 1968.

SPINSTER

Unmarried females once spun, all the thread out of which they later wove the household linens and trouseaus that they would need when they were married. Hence all girls were busy spinning until they married and were called *spinsters*. If they did not marry at all they might be said to be spinning (in preparation for the hoped-for event) all their lives. From this the term began to be applied to old maids.