After completing this chapter, you will be able to:

- Define ecology and discuss how it relates to child development.
- Define socialization and explain how it relates to child development.
- Describe and illustrate how society’s concept of childhood has changed from the Renaissance to the present day.
- Define a theory and explain the uniqueness of the bioecological theory.
- Describe how socialization occurs in a bioecological context.
- Explain how the microsystem, mesosystem, exosystem, and macrosystem interact over time (the chronosystem).
- Discuss contemporary ecology, naming societal trends affecting children.
Socialization

- The process by which human beings acquire the knowledge, skills and character traits that enable them to participate as effective members of groups and society.
- The process begins at birth.
- It is dynamic (not static) and reciprocal.
Socialization includes...

- parenting or child rearing
- social development
- education
Socialization

- A unique human process
  - language

- A reciprocal dynamic process
  - Maturation
  - Genes
  - Temperament
Socialization

- Intentional
- Unintentional
Change and Childhood

- How has the concept of childhood changed?
Ecological Theory of Analysis

Urie Bronfenbrenner
Has it roots in the ancient Indian and Buddhist understanding that,

- inherently nothing can exist alone
- all things exist interdependently
Urie Bronfenbrenner's work

Bronfenbrenner's Ecological Systems Theory of Development: Definition & Examples
Urie Bronfenbrenner: Dynamic Systems Perspective

- Understanding of interdependent origination

- Model studies humans in social environments

- The social context of individual interactions and experiences determines...
  - the degree to which individuals can develop their abilities
  - the degree to which individuals realize their human potential
Model of Social Environments

- It includes 5 structures that promote collaboration among all the systems
  - Microsystem (primary ecology)
  - Mesosystem (secondary ecology)
  - Exosystem (tertiary ecology)
  - Macrosystem (ambient culture)
  - Chronosystem

- Emphasizes development in context
According to Urie Bronfenbrenner

- Each person affected by interactions among a number of overlapping ecosystems.
- Child at the center of the model
- Ecological systems are termed the social context of human development.
Microsystems

- Systems that intimately and immediately shape human development.
- The primary **microsystems** for children include the family, peer group, classroom, neighborhood, and sometimes a church, temple, or mosque as well.
Microsystem (primary ecology)

- Immediate setting where the child is in a particular time
- Bidirectional relationship of the child
- Is the constellation of interpersonal relations experienced in a consistent basis
  - Ex. Direct interaction with social agents like parents, peers, and teachers
Mesosystem

- Interactions among the microsystems, as when parents and teachers coordinate their efforts to educate the child, take place through the mesosystem.
Mesosystem (secondary ecology)

- The part of the child’s world that is once removed from the persons seen every day
- Entities or institutions with which the child interacts episodically
- Consists of the interrelationships between 2 or more of a person’s microsystem (connecting of the structures of the microsystem)
- Depends on the quality of interaction
Examples of the Mesosystem

- Relationships of family experiences to school experiences
- A child's education and learning not only depends upon the teachers' knowledge, but also the parents of the child, as they have an equal responsibility to assist the child in learning and education
- The connection between parents, church, and neighborhood
Exosystem

• Surrounding the microsystems is the **exosystem**
• It includes all the external networks, such as community structures and local educational, medical, employment, and communications systems, that influence the microsystems.
Exosystem

Relationship between systems that may or may not directly “touch” the child or family directly

- Children are not active participants
  - Ex. Work experiences may affect a woman’s relationship with husband
  - Relationship between educational system and social service system
And influencing all other systems is the **macrosystem**. It includes cultural values, political philosophies, economic patterns, and social conditions.
Macrosystem

- Consists of the society and its ideology in which the child grows up
- It refers to the general organization of the world
- Ex. Studying the culture of a family and child provides information of one’s self
Chronosystem

- Involves the patterns of environmental events and transitions in life
- Sociohistorical circumstances or conditions
- Transitions over life
- Ex. studying the effects of divorce in children