

# Agents of Socialization



# SOCIALIZATION

- Socialization is the cultural process of learning to participate in group life.
- Socialization begins at birth and continues throughout life
- The most important learning occurs early in life
- Without socialization a human infant cannot develop the set of attitudes, beliefs, values, and behavior associated with being human
- Developmental growth can be improved with only 20 minutes of extra touching a day

# Key Agents of the Socialization Process

- Family
- Peers
- Media
- School

# Description of Agents

- They play different roles
- They have different impacts on development
- They may reinforce or contradict one another
- They can be intentional or unintentional
- They occur in many different setting

- Your daily life includes many social networks, of groups that regularly contribute to your socialization; they include family, friends, teachers, teammates, and people at work, and so forth. Identify one of these groups, and imagine your day if you suddenly lost contact with those people. What key elements are provided by this particular social network?

- As you look at the “Highlights of Your Life” handout, identify which agents of socialization have had the greatest impact on your life?