Friendship Research

Formation

- P 62 Angles Text Book
- Vertical age stages
- Horizontal time stages
  - Acquaintance
  - Build up
  - Continuation and consolidation
  - Deterioration
  - Ending

Definition

- emotional relationship
  - mutual trust
  - assistance
  - respect
  - understanding
  - intimacy
- Functions
  - means to develop interactional skills
  - route to intimacy
  - exchange and test knowledge
    - people
    - the world
  - emotional buffer
    - stress
    - problems at home

Developmental research

- Observation Studies
  - Preferred Playmate
    - 2yo - sustained preference
    - 4yo-50% have friend, 30% of time in company
  - Self disclosure
    - 7-10 to parents
    - 15 - to friends
- Questionnaire
  - Damon 1977
    - egocentrism
    - 7yo few feelings - fleeting relationships
    - 8 - 11
      - Shared trust
      - Shared interests
      - responsiveness
      - Kindness
    - 12 on
      - deep
      - enduring
      - mutual understanding
      - shared intimacy
- Social Dilemma
  - Selman Stage Theory
    - Analyse responses to story
      - 3-6 Partner in physical interaction
      - 5-9 ~Friend as 1-way assistant to Child's Needs
      - 7-12 Fair weather friendship - reciprocal relationship with some idea of the other's needs
      - 10-15 Intimate and close, can involve jealousy & possessiveness. Ingroup of 2
      - 12 upwards Friendship without extreme intensity - autonomous interdependence
- Content analysis of Children's essays
  - Bigelow and LaGaipa 1975
    - My best friend - rated on dimensions e.g. sharing, reciprocity
    - Young Children
      - general play
      - giving to a friend
    - Older Children
      - similarity
      - acceptance
      - loyalty
- Evaluation
  - Ability to communicate
  - Clinical Interview Content analysis may be subjective
  - Dilemma responses
    - Used in other studies e.g. moral reasoning.
    - may be seen as more complex than real life
    - Serafica 1982
      - Real friends vs best friends gave different responses in dilemma techniques