

# ***Socialization & Sociology***

- *Primary groups*
- *Family*
- *Range of Potential*
  - *The Social Lottery*

# *Minds On*

- In the box provided on your worksheet, list the various traits and qualities you would most like to have in a parent or set of parents...

# ***Social Groups***

- *A **social group** refers to two or more people who interact with each other and are aware of having something in common.*
  - *They meet a variety of needs (example families provide for many needs, schools provide for others, & work others again).*
  - *They provide us with knowledge, security, and help us to establish our own identity.*



# ***Primary & Secondary Social Groups***

## ***Primary Groups***

- are small close groups such as family and close friends.
- we are more often judged by who we are.
- they are more interested in us as a whole.
- we usually use face to face communication.

Who are the people in your primary groups?

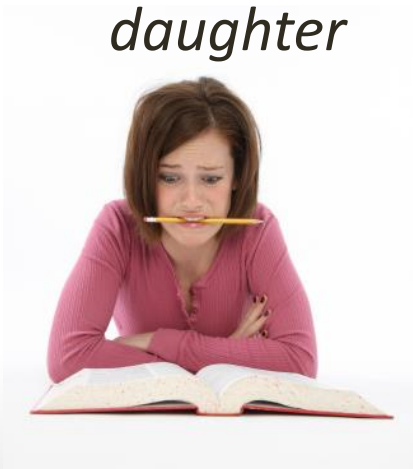
## ***Secondary Groups***

- are less personal and formal than primary groups.
- relationships may be more temporary.
- more often judged by what you can do.
- are interested in a narrower aspect of the person
- often use more formal communication

What is an example of a secondary group you are in?

# ***Do groups shape our behaviour?***

- *social groups have a powerful impact on our thinking and behaviour*
- *groups influence behaviour by assigning members social **roles** – behaviours that individuals within a group are expected to perform*
  - *example a parent's role includes providing food for their child*
  - *sometimes roles can conflict – example student/ employee / daughter*



- **norms** are the rules within a group that dictate how members should behave if they want to continue to be part of the group
- **sanctions** are used to encourage or discourage behaviour in a group – good sanctions are rewards (example pay cheque) while negative sanctions are punishments given by the group (example rejection, shunning, reprimands etc.)





# ***Socialization***

- *Through social contact with parents, family, community, school, the media and so on, individuals learn to think and act in certain ways.*
- *Socialization allows new members to learn the accepted ways of behaving within a specific culture or society. This is important for future success.*



# ***The Nature vs. Nurture Debate & Socialization***



## ***Nature***

- This theory states that an individual's development and behaviour are products of nature or biological heredity and not really impacted by social interaction or social environment.



## ***Nurture***

- This theory states that an individual's development and behaviour are products of socialization and social environment.



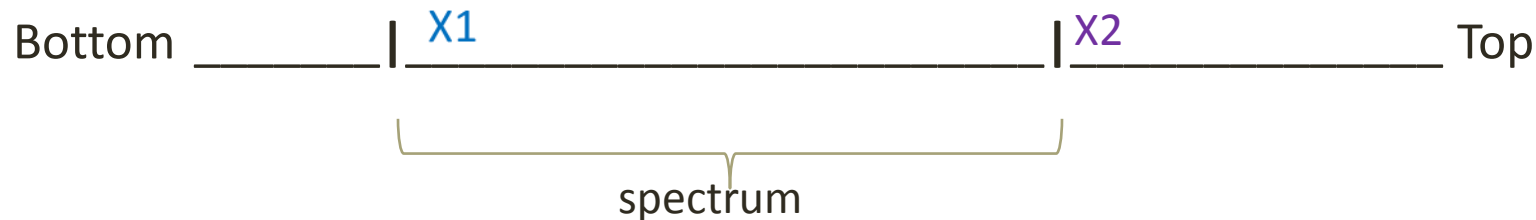
## Range of Potential

- According to **Sandra Scarr**, all humans are born with a **‘range of potential’** that is genetically predetermined (nature) –but how far they achieve along that range depends on the type of environment (nurture) they grow up in.



## Example...

predetermined athletic ability range on the spectrum based on genetics



- *x1 person's parents may view sports as recreational only, may limit activities, may not stress practice, may not have as healthy a diet and as healthy a lifestyle*
- *x2 person's parents may view the human body as a machine that can be trained and perfected toward a sport, may have a very supportive home environment with healthy diet and active lifestyle, may stress hard work and practice and attitude*

# *Implications for each of us?*

- According to this theory, the genetic range of potential sets the lower and upper limits that a person might achieve on any one variable.
- However, our social environment determines how far along that range we manage to get.
  - In this example the variable is athletic ability but the same theory could be used to look at academic achievement or skill at dance, or piano and so on.

What do you think  
about this theory?

agree, disagree or unsure

If you could pick **any parents** in the world, and essentially design them ahead of time. What traits would they have? (see minds on list)

Life is a **social lottery** – some people by virtue of birth to a set of parents have a head start in the race of life.



Explain this, what type of advantages could a person have with the right parents.

What type of disadvantages  
could a person have with less  
ideal parents?



While this may be true, what we do with that lottery ticket is up to us

– and if we don't win the lottery we can still make our own luck.

Explain how this might be able to happen.

