

The Dynamics of Intelligence

With respect to changes in intelligence, research indicates that:

- Before age 3, except for extremely impaired children, casual observations and intelligence tests predict future aptitudes minimally; but by age 3, performances on intelligence tests begin to predict adolescent and adult scores
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- By age 7, intelligence tests have become more stable and there is an increase in score stability as the child gets older.

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Genetic and Environmental Influences on Intelligence

Research indicates that:

- IQ scores of identical twins are virtually the same as if one person took the test twice whereas IQ scores of fraternal twins are less similar. Nature or Nurture?
- Intelligence scores of adopted children are more similar to their biological parents than their adopted parents. Nature or Nurture?
- Fraternal twins who are treated more alike tend to have more similar scores than when compared to scores of other siblings. Nature or Nurture?

Heritability is a term used to describe the extent to which the differences among people are attributed to genes (and not environmental). With respect to the heritability of intelligence, as environments become more equal (similar), it becomes more important to look at heredity as a source of these differences in intelligence.

Jan 15-1:29 PM

Environmental Influences

Responsive Care

Malnutrition, sensory deprivation and social isolation can retard normal brain development but enriched environments make less difference in intelligence.

Schooling

High quality preschool programs improve EQ - resulting in less dropouts, better attitudes towards learning.

- Schooling and intelligence contribute to each other.
 - IQ scores rise during school months and drop in summer.
 - Completing high school raises intelligence scores.
 - Flynn Effect

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Racial groups differ in their average intelligence scores on intelligence tests. High scoring people and groups are more likely to achieve higher levels of education and higher income.

This racial gap more environmental than genetic.
Individual differences are greater than differences between races.
Asian students do better on math tests than North American students.
(conscientiousness, longer school year)
White and black infants score equally well on infant intelligence testing.
Different ethnic groups experience periods of success 'golden ages'.

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Gender similarities outnumber differences.
No gender gap in overall intelligence scores.
Girls are better speller, equal or higher on math scores.

Females better at detecting/reading emotions.

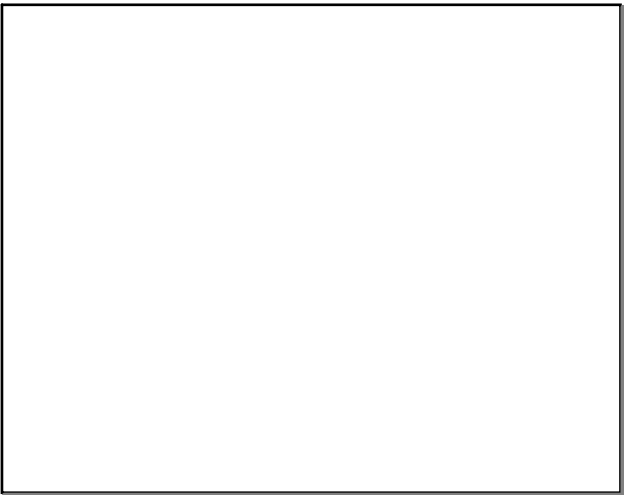
Boys tend to score higher in math problem solving.

"As more and more girls are encouraged to develop their abilities in math and science, the gender gap is narrowing."

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http://www.worthpublishers.com/myers5e/con_index.htm?99qiz

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Jan 19-9:24 AM

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