

Chapter 10

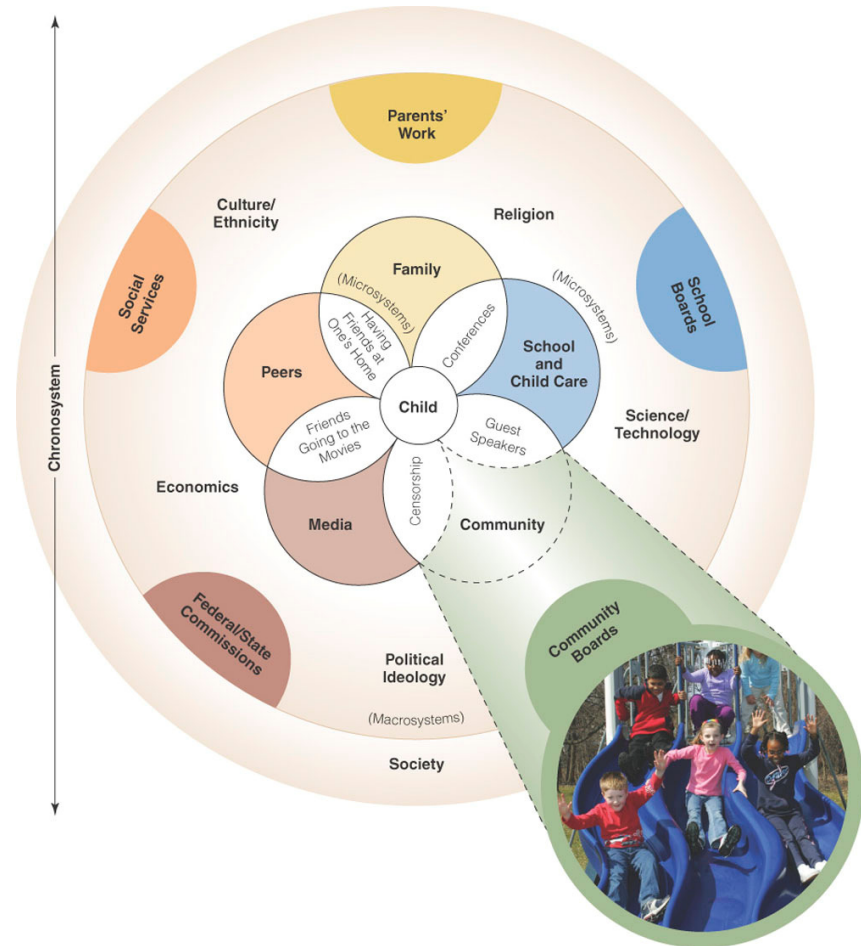
Ecology of the Community

Learning Objectives

- Define a community and explain its five functions.
- Describe how a community influences socialization, including physical, social, and personal factors in the community.
- Explain how the community serves as a support system, including the preventative, supportive, and rehabilitative services it provides.
- Describe how mesosystems (community links to family and school) influence and care for people with economic, health, social, and disability-related problems.
- Explain the value of volunteerism for the community.
- Define child advocacy and explain how the community protects children who are maltreated.

Community: Structure/Functions

- A group of people living in the same geographic area (neighborhood, town, or city) under common laws
- A group of people sharing fellowship, a friendly association, and common interests



Five Functions

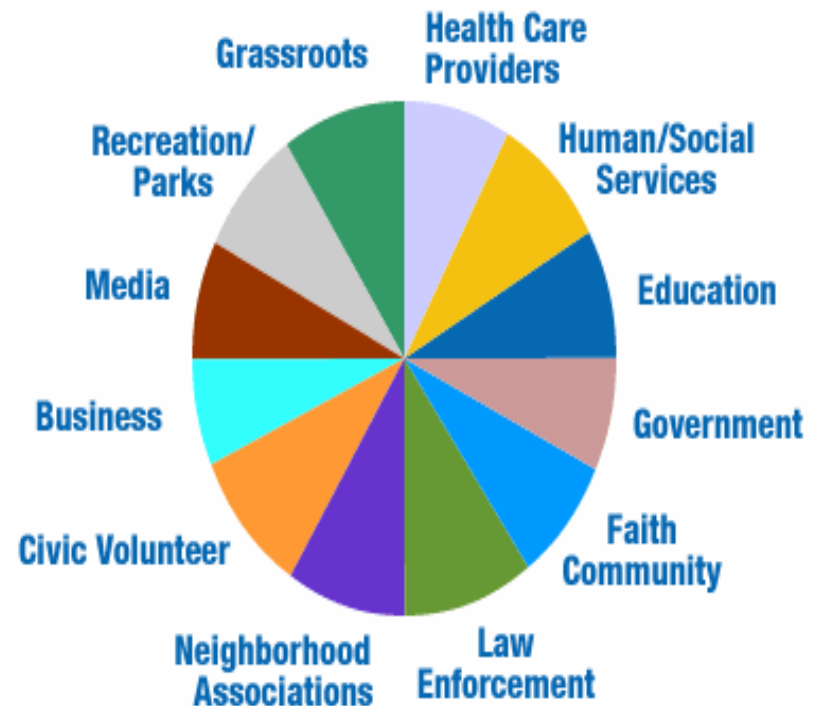
- Production, distribution, consumption
- Socialization
- Social control
- Social participation
- Mutual support



**FIGURE ONE: COMPONENTS OF A SOCIAL THEORY OF LEARNING:
AN INITIAL INVENTORY. SOURCE: ETIENNE WENGER.**

The Community's Influence on Socialization

- The community is a socializing agent because it is where children learn the role expectations for adults as well as for themselves.



The Community Wheel

www.MarinInstitute.org

Community Organizing

- Six stages of effective community organizing
- Assess the community
- Create an action team
- Develop an action plan
- Mobilize to action
- Implement
- Evaluate



Socialization Methods

- Modeling by adults
- Values and norms instilled in children
- Enforcement of rules
- Serving as a context in which children can “try out” behavior and experience consequences

Physical Factors

- Population density and composition
- Noise
- Arrangement and types of houses
- Play settings
 - Traditional
 - Modern
 - Adventure



Interaction Patterns

- **Gemeinschaft**
 - Communal, cooperative, close, intimate, and informal interpersonal relationships
- **Gesellschaft**
 - Associative, practical, objective, and formal interpersonal relationships



Table 10.1**Basic Social Relationships****Gemeinschaft**

Mutually dependent

Caring

Informal

Intimate

Trusting

Kin

Friends

Neighbors

Special-interest groups

Collectively oriented

Gesellschaft

Independent

Contractual

Formal

Associative

Mistrusting

Employers/managers

Employees

Business associates

Achievement objectives

Individually oriented

The Community as a Learning Environment

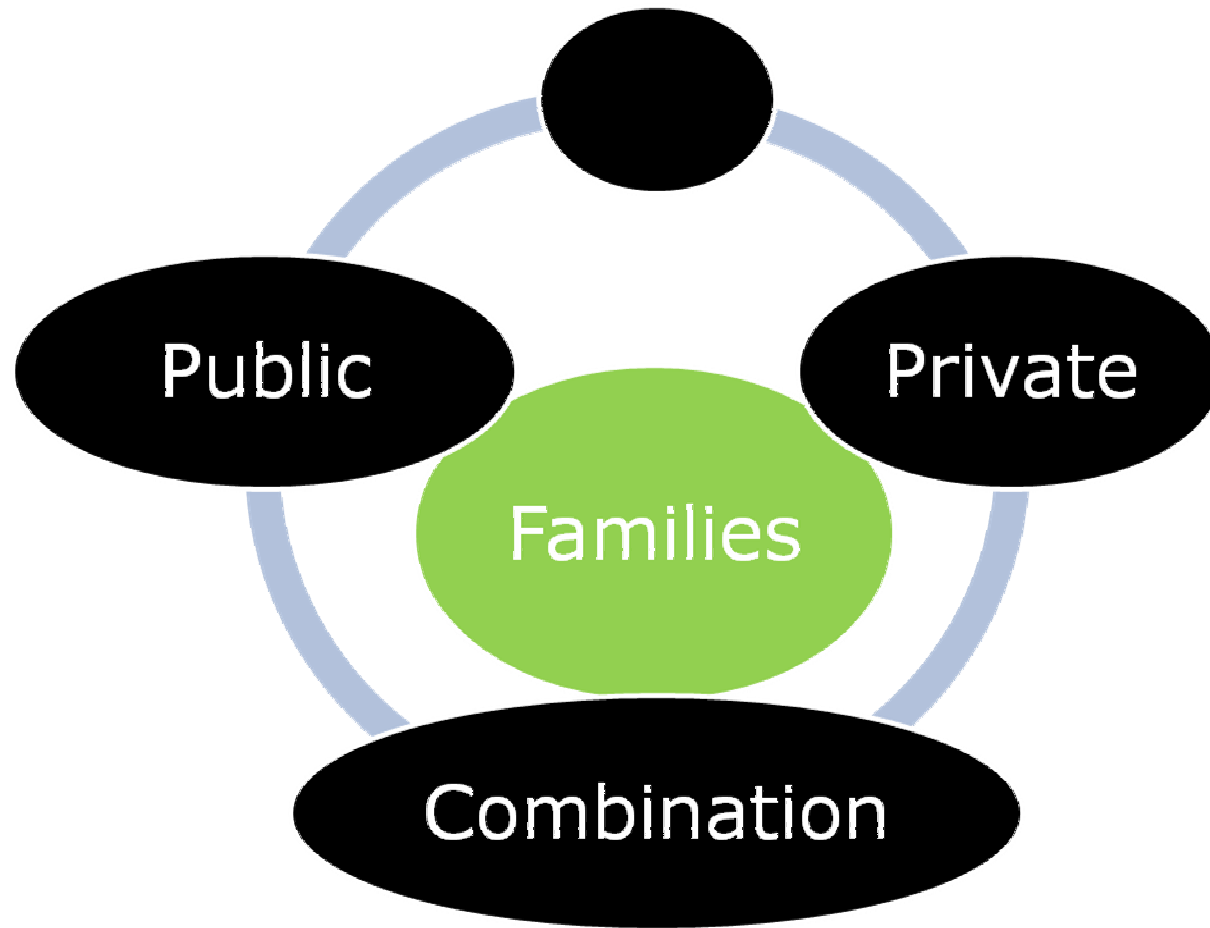




The Community as a Support System



Community Agencies





La Mesa Verde Community Project

- **Preventive**
 - Seek to lessen the strains of everyday life
- **Supportive**
 - Seek to maintain the health, education, and welfare of the community
- **Rehabilitative**
 - Seek to enable or restore individuals' ability to participate in the community



Caring Communities: Programs for Families

- Economic Assistance
- Health Care
- Social Support
- Special Child-Care Services

Activity:

- Form small group.
- Assign a topic.
- Review and discuss the section
- Report back with 2-4 main points

Economic Assistance

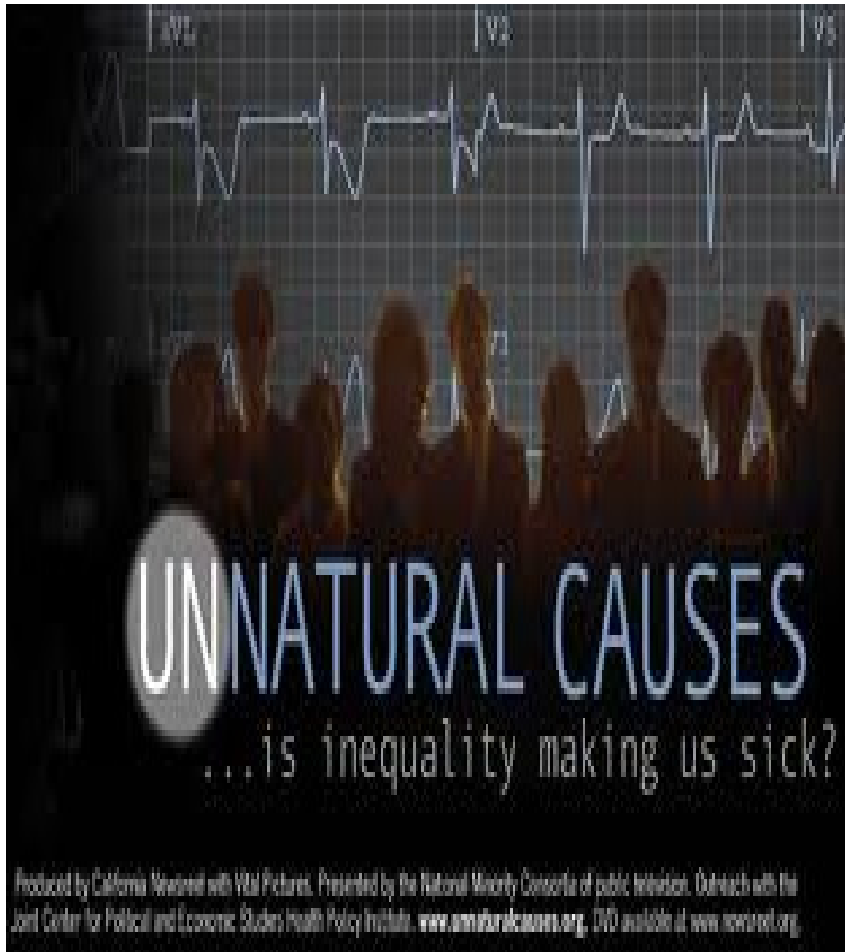
- One in six children in the United States lives in poverty.
- These families have incomes below the federally designated poverty guideline.
- Families with children are the fastest growing segment of Americans who are homeless.



Economic Programs

- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
- Unemployment compensation
- Social security survivor or disability benefits
- Supplemental security income
- Veterans' benefits
- Child nutrition services

Health Care: Do we all have an equal chance?



- View segment: Unnatural Causes
- Health Disparities Local: Children's health protection Act

<http://www.unnaturalcauses.org/>

Social Support

- Child welfare services
- Social services block grants
- Child and adolescent service system programs
- Income tax deductions
- Subsidized day care

Special Services

Table 10.4 Key Federal Assistance Programs for Children and Families

Poverty	Child Health	Support for Families	Special Child-Care Needs
Temporary Assistance for Needy Families	Medicaid	Child welfare services	Foster care
Unemployment compensation	Maternal and child health services	Social services block grant (Title XX)	Adoption assistance program
Social Security survivor or disability benefits	Children's health insurance programs	Child and adolescent service system program	Child abuse prevention and treatment
Supplemental Security Income	Centers for Disease Control	Income tax deduction for child-care expenses	Family violence prevention and services
Veteran's benefits			
Child nutrition services programs	Child nutrition		
Other services: child care, educational, health	Head Start	Subsidized child care	Head Start
Homeless assistance			

Mesosystem Influences

- Community services, such as child-care, should link with other health, nutrition, social services, and educational programs.
- Head Start is an example of a program with a comprehensive set of service linkages.

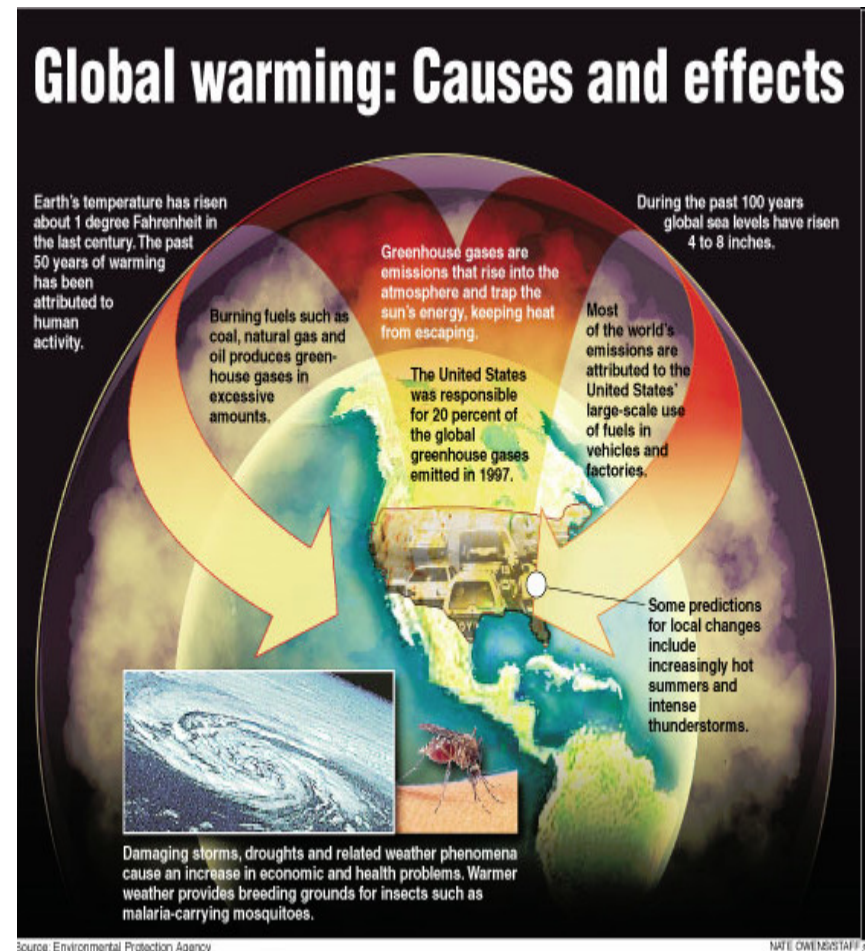
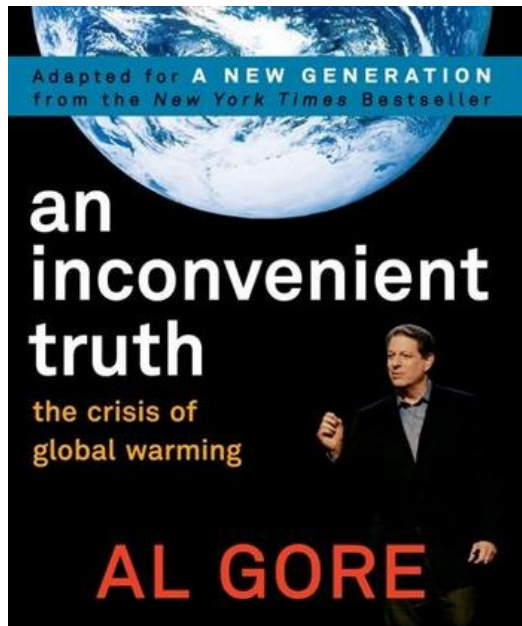
Advocacy

- Children's Defense Fund
- Child Welfare League of America
- National Congress of Parents and Teachers



Environment

- Global Warming
An Inconvenient Truth



Education

- Full funded system

