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## Parents or Peers – Controversy over the Dominant Role in Child Nurture and Development

### Abstract

The article deals with the answer to the question: “Who plays a more important role in nurture: parents or peers?” From discussion it results that both are important and that they are complementary to each other.

**Key words:** *parents, peers, child nurture and development.*

### Introduction

According to psychological theories and social beliefs parents play an important or even indispensable role in man's life. In psychology any person who is of great importance to the individual's life, marking profoundly their development, is called significant other. Among such persons parents hold a special position, which results from a number of factors.

In human life, parents are the first people an infant makes contact with. Without parental care a baby would be unable to survive and it is natural that children are recipients of an unconditional love. Parents initiate their child into the world of language and culture. Owing to everyday contact between parents and the child, their intimacy and common set of genes it is easier for them to become syntonic. As a result of such emotional proximity and kinship the impact of parents on their child's life lasts for many years and persists even after their death, when the child decides to stick to the ideas and behaviours inherited from their parents.

Before man is born his development takes place in the mother's womb. The mother's body does not reject the baby, even though it is foreign for her immu-