Family Relationships

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The Home Ecom adds several new courses to the curriculum to meet the trend toward better children's preparation. College students observe the children at the college nursery school to try to understand their individual differences and learn about children. Sandra Hofferth is sliding down the slide while Janice Fulcomer looks back to see who is coming up next. Karen Nordin is pulling Bernard Michelson and Kenneth Kalahar in the wagon and Denby Barnett helps by pushing. Janice is doing fine pumping herself up in this easy-to-handle swing.

THE IOWA HOMEMAKER
WHO ARE you? Yes, you’re a college woman, a sorority or dormitory member, a home economics student; but you’re more than that. You’re also the member of many groups, one of which is your family group, and it’s this group which has done the most to determine what you are.

To study you, the psychologist or sociologist can use two approaches. He can study your traits and personality, how you as an individual behave, or he can study a situation in which your personality is developed in attempting to discover why you behave as you do. It’s a recognized fact that to understand you as a person, it’s necessary to study your family and the role you played and are playing in it.

**Understand Yourself**

You need to understand yourself better to be able to understand other people, and you must learn to accept people as they are if you expect to get along with them.

At Iowa State you have a fine opportunity to study human relations and their importance in family living. Recent changes in the home economics curriculum have made this possible. In cooperation with the Department of Sociology and other departments on the campus, the Home Economics Division is trying to show that better family living can be brought about by stressing how the family influences you, the individual; how individuals influence the families they form; and how a better understanding of human relationships can result in improved family living.

**New Courses Added**

Several new courses have been added to help with these changes in approach to the study of family life. Child development 300, which is now a required home economics course called “introduction to family relationships,” helps you appreciate the family as an important unit of society. It presents the complete family life cycle and teaches you what to do to live together more harmoniously in your family group. This course stresses the family as the “growing ground” for the personalities of the people who live in it and shows how your family living affects what you will contribute to the new family you form. It also helps you see your importance as a family member and the importance of your family to you.

A course in marriage and the family taught by the Department of Sociology gives elective credit to home economics students. This course stresses the importance of understanding human relationships in courtship and marriage.

Since most of you are looking forward to having families of your own, two other child development courses have been planned to help you prepare for

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the important job of being a mother. In child development 235, stress is placed upon learning how young children behave, why they behave as they do, and what role the parent has in guiding a child.

Child development 330 emphasizes the importance and "know how" of providing a satisfactory play environment for children in your home.

Nursery School Observation

The stress in nursery school observation courses is now on individual differences in children. As often as possible, students are encouraged to make home visits to see what the child's family situation and environment are like. This often gives insight into why the child behaves as he does. Student teachers in the nursery school are required to make home visits to increase their education and the family's education.

For you who are preparing to teach, either preschool children or high school youngers, sociology or child development 419 is designed to help you gain the ability to look at families objectively and learn to recognize their influence on the children you are teaching. In this course, you study the stages in family development from the husband and wife stage to the aging couple and bereavement stages. This offers a chance to see the importance of the ever-changing relationships in families and how it affects the children you are teaching.

Fine family living does not just come naturally. It is something that must be achieved. You have to work toward it. You have to achieve it by using your intelligence and skills, just as you achieve success in anything else.

What Can You Do?

Our college is offering us a chance to study about and to understand family interrelationships, and to develop some of the skills in getting along with others that we can use in our own families. As future mothers of tomorrow, it's up to us to be interested in this new phase of education, the study of how the family influences its individual members and how the individual members influence their families. This understanding of human behavior is important in homes, schools and business — are you going to take advantage of these chances to study about it?

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