

relationships, children learn to deal with dominance and hostility and to relate with persons in positions of leadership and authority. Other functions of the peer subculture are to relieve boredom and to provide recognition that individual members do not receive from teachers and other authority figures.

The peer-group culture has secrets, mores, and codes of ethics that promote group solidarity and detachment from adults. They have traditions, including age-related games and other activities that are transferred from “generation to generation” of schoolchildren and that have a great influence over the behavior of all group members. As children move from one level to the next, they discard the folkways of the younger group as they adopt those of the new group. For example, a school-age child rides a bicycle to school, whereas the high school student prefers a car. As they advance, children are forward oriented only—they look forward with anticipation but may look backward with contempt.

Social Roles

Much of children's self-concept comes from their ideas about their social roles. Roles are cultural creations; therefore, the culture prescribes patterns of behavior for persons in a variety of social positions. All persons who hold similar social positions have an obligation to behave in a particular manner. A role prohibits some behaviors and allows others. Because culture outlines and clarifies roles, it is a significant influence on the development of children's self-concept (i.e., attitudes and beliefs they have about themselves). To establish their place in the group, children learn to follow a mode of behavior that is in agreement with the standards specific to the group and learn how they can expect others to behave toward them. They take their cues by observing and imitating those to whom they are exposed consistently.

Co-Cultural or Subcultural Influences

Except in rare circumstances, children grow and develop in a blend of cultures. Subcultures or co-cultures are groups within a cultural group that possess their own standards and mores ([Dysart-Gale, 2006](#)). For example, nursing or medicine constitutes a subculture or