



Transition Material

Sociology A-level – Session 2

Key Term 2: Primary Socialisation

This takes place in the first five years of a person's life. The main agent of primary socialisation is the family. This teaches you the fundamental norms and values of society and continues to do so later in life. The mass media is also increasingly involved in the process of primary socialisation, as children are now exposed to the media from a very young age through children's books, TV shows, films and apps.

What do you learn in Primary Socialisation? A whole range of skills, from learning to speak to basic manners (such as saying please and thank you). During this period you learn the fundamental skills for getting on in your society.

TASK

Apart from those mentioned above, what other things did you learn in your first 5 years of life?

What if you don't receive Primary Socialisation? Children who do not receive primary socialisation (usually because they have been isolated from other human beings) are known as **feral children**.

Key Term 3: Feral Children

There have been many cases of feral children, though some are believed to have been faked. There are many fictional stories of children raised without humans (like Tarzan and Mowgli) and some real-life stories that are similar (e.g. **Amala and Kampala**, raised by wolves in India), but most sociologists believe that the children are not 'raised' by the animals – they just grow up near them. Most cases of feral children are the result of neglect (they are ignored by their parents). This might include the Ukrainian girl **Oxana Malaya**, who grew up in a kennel, or **Danielle Crockett**, a girl from Florida, USA, who was kept alone in a locked room. Feral children are important to sociologists as they can be seen

as more evidence of the importance of socialisation to help us learn. Feral children are generally unable to communicate and are often unable to walk properly or use their hands well.



TASK

Use Google or YouTube to watch a clip on Feral Children- use names from the text below to search.