**Do Parents Matter? The Nature/Nurture Debate**

The Nurture Assumption was published in 1999 and revised in 2009 by Judith Harris

1. Traditionally, psychologists have assumed what about the role of parenting? Traditionally, psychologists have assumed that parents are the prime socializing agents for kids, and therefore responsible for how the child turns out.
2. Some social scientists, including Harris now believe that peers are more influential than parents.
3. Give 3 examples of peer influence:

* Graffiti, theft, clothing choices.

1. According to Harris, at what age are we most impacted by our peers? 6-12
2. What was the main discovery in the Minnesota twin studies?

Dr. Thomas Bouchard found that personality was mostly genetic. 40 to 50 %of Personality is due to the environment and 50 to 60% is genetic. [The Minnesota Centre for Fwin & Family Research](https://mctfr.psych.umn.edu/index.html) is based in the Psychology Dept. in the University of Minnesota.

1. Give 2 piece of evidence to support the icea that parents don’t matter.

* Immigrant children adapt well to a new culture while parents are often stuck in the old culture.
* Two adoptees raised by the same family are no more alike than any 2 people selected at random from the population.
* Twins raised in the same home were no more alike than twins separated at birth and raised apart.

1. At what age can infants paly and remember a game?

3 months, as found by Carolyn Rovee-Collier .

1. Give examples that show how complicated child play can be.

* Role playing is creative and not just an imitation of things learned from adults.

1. At what age is the peer influence the greatest? Harris believes that by age 12, the peers have the most important influence and have had for some time.