

# Socioeconomic Status

The Invisible Diversity Issue  
Ciarra Karnes

1 out of every 7 children live below the poverty line



## Poverty

### Relationships

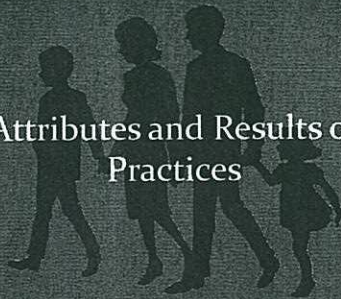
- Clothing
- Debt
- Transportation
- Family and Friends
- Safety
- Jobs
- Health
- Housing
- Criminal Justice System
- Food
- Child Care
- Entertainment
- Agency Time

## Middle Class

### Achievement

- Transportation
- Family and Friends
- Clubs/Civic Groups/Volunteering
- Political Action
- Education
- Housing
- Retirement
- Careers
- Hobbies/Sports
- Vacation
- Children's Activities

## Attributes and Results of Practices



## Language

| Middle/Professional Class   | Poor/Working Class  |
|---|---|
| Discussions happen often:<br>Gains verbal agility<br>Larger vocabulary<br>Gain comfort around authority figures<br>Familiarity with abstract concepts | Clear boundaries are created between children and parents;<br>Parents use instruction more than persuasion:<br>Child develops a sense of distrust, distance, and constraint |

## Leisure Time

| Middle/Professional Class   | Poor/Working Class   |
|---|--|
| Organized activities, established and controlled by parents.<br>Frenetic pace<br>Bored when not in activity | Children have more control over leisure activity<br>Free to play with friends and relatives<br>Create their own games and activities |

## Personal Contact

| Middle/Professional Class  | Poor/Working Class   |
|--|--|
| Comfortable shaking hands<br>Good eye contact<br>Can deal with authority figures | Restrained<br>Looking someone in the eye may be dangerous<br>Distrust of authority figures |

## Money

| Middle/Professional Class   | Poor/Working Class  |
|---|---|
| Money is seldom discussed<br>The assumption is that the child's activities will be paid for | Money is frequently discussed<br>Activities limited by finances |

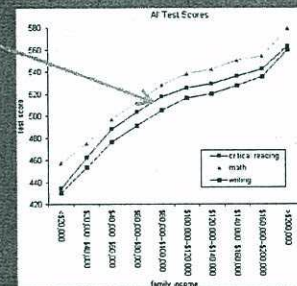
## Results

| Middle/Professional Class     | Poor/Working Class           |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Emerging sense of entitlement | Emerging sense of constraint |

## College

*"Where college was once a device for creating tomorrow's leaders, it is now seen as a device for combating socioeconomic inequalities."*  
(Berube and Nelson)

## SAT Scores and Income



## Homelessness

- 40% women, children, and families
- 65% of the families are women with children
- 20%-40% were experiencing sexual abuse
- 40%-60% were experiencing physical abuse



## Homelessness

1 out of every 9 children in the U.S. experience homelessness each year



## McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act



## Unaccompanied Homeless Youth

- Children not in physical custody of their parents

Half are assaulted or robbed

1 out of every 10 report being raped

5,000 die each year

## Street Kids

- They stay wherever they can find a place

Street, cars, parks, abandoned buildings, barns, even under bridges

Negotiate survival sex

## Other types of youth homelessness

- Doubled up
- Migratory
- Emergency/Transitional shelters
- Awaiting foster care