

## CHAPTER 16: CHILDHOOD AND ADOLESCENT PSYCHOLOGICAL PROBLEMS RESEARCH QUESTIONS

### 16.2 DISRUPTIVE BEHAVIOUR PROBLEMS

- What is the evidence that ADHD and conduct disorder are part of the same underlying syndrome?
- Why is it that not all hyperactive toddlers go on to develop ADHD?
- Do cultural factors affect the observed prevalence rates of ADHD in different societies?
- There appears to be an important inherited component to ADHD, but what is it that is inherited?
- Do children inherit a genetic vulnerability to ADHD that is converted into full-blown ADHD only if certain environmental factors are present?
- What is the role of prenatal exposure to nicotine in the development of ADHD?
- In what ways might being raised by a parent with ADHD contribute to the child developing ADHD?
- Do children with ADHD have Theory of Mind (TOM) deficits?
- Do executive functioning deficits occur in conduct disorder in the absence of ADHD symptoms?
- Are socioeconomic factors important in mediating any link between prenatal exposure to alcohol and smoking and the development of conduct disorder?
- Does media violence only increase levels of violent and aggressive behaviour in children who already exhibit symptoms of conduct disorder?
- Are factors such as poverty, low socio-economic class, unemployment, urban living, and poor educational achievement a cause or a consequence of conduct disorder?

### 16.3 CHILDHOOD ANXIETY & DEPRESSION

- Are childhood OCD and tic disorder different manifestations of the same underlying disorder?
- Through what combination of genes is the inherited component of anxiety transmitted?
- Risk factors for childhood depression include maternal anxiety and mother's attitude towards care-giving. How might these affect the quality of mother-child interactions and facilitate childhood depression?
- Which is the more important influence on childhood depression, genetics or environment?
- How might having depressed parents cause depression in the child?

- Do fathers and mothers have different roles to play in determining the levels of anxiety exhibited by their children?

#### **16.4 THE TREATMENT OF CHILDHOOD PSYCHOLOGICAL PROBLEMS**

- What is the evidence that antidepressants such as SSRIs are effective at treating childhood depression?
- Do the benefits of SSRIs and SNRIs for childhood anxiety and depression outweigh the risks?
- How do stimulant drugs, such as Ritalin, help to control the symptoms of ADHD?
- What do we know about the longer-term effectiveness of family interventions in treating childhood anxiety and depression?
- How can we measure the efficacy of play therapy in the treatment of childhood anxiety and depression?
- Is CBT more or less effective in treating childhood anxiety and depression than either drugs or other forms of psychotherapy?