

# Divorce

Sociology



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Divorce The topic of the effects of divorce on children remains the popular one with much research being conducted in this regard. Obviously, divorce is a stressful experience for a child that would demand time of adjustment to the new conditions of life. As a whole, there is lack of consistent data as to whether the younger children appear to be under more risk of having adjustment problems, yet it is clear that they are likely to be more harmed than the older ones. (Bloem) One of the possible reasons lies in the fact that they have “ fewer cognitive resources to make sense of events and emotions” triggered by them. (Niolon, 2010)

There is no single pattern according to which children are to be affected by divorce as far as each case is individualistic, including such variabilities as parenting styles, amount of support children get, and the way parents react on the situation themselves. However, certain common effects are detected. For instance, preschoolers tend to blame themselves for the divorce, face the fear of abandonment, but have difficulties in expressing feelings. (Bloem; Niolon, 2010) Between the age 7-13 children would react with more sadness and anger, but independence as well. It is common for them to feel betrayed, develop mistrust, and have academic problems. During the late adolescence individuals can have difficulties in coping with outrage, sadness, and anger that can provoke them to reexamine personal values and detach from the family.

While the age of a child can hint on the possible difficulties he/she would face, the age of parents as a factor affecting divorce experience is a matter of question. From one side, it is likely that those who married when being younger are more likely to divorce than those who married when older. Also, older parents are expected to have more life experience and, therefore, are

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expected to provide sufficient emotional support and take care of children when divorcing. From another side, children's experience of divorce depends significantly on the parenting style, of which parenting age is not a strong predictor.

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#### References

Bloem, R. (n. d.). Effects of divorce on children. Children and Divorce, Retrieved from <http://www.children-and-divorce.com/effects-of-divorce-on-children.html>

Niolon, R. (2010, Sep 19). Children of divorce and adjustment. Psychpage, Retrieved from <http://www.psychpage.com/family/childrenadjust.html>