What is Socialization

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Socialization refers to an interactive process whereby individuals learn some of the values, attitudes and beliefs of the culture or society they are members of. The socialization process occurs throughout life and the following are considered agents of socialization:

Family as socialization agent:

In our society the family is considered the child’s first reference group. Parents are given the responsibility of inculcating in their children the values and norms to operate in the world.

**School as socialization agent:**

The function of schools is to create responsible, obedient, achievement oriented students through the use of various rewards and negative consequences such as grades. Children learn the following from school:

\* valuing democracy, achievement, the benefits of self-discipline and hard work \* how to function effectively as members of an institution  
\* how to be respectful and obey authorities other than their parents

**What Are the Core Values?**

Citizenship – honoring our country’s democratic values; helping create equal opportunity Cooperation – making efforts to work together to achieve goals  
Fairness – knowing how to treat others equally, respectfully and with dignity  
Integrity – resisting coercion from others to do the wrong thing; asserting your belief system Kindness – being thoughtful, empathetic, and caring for others

Respect – treating others kindly and gently; being nice and decent Responsibility – holding yourself accountable for your behavior

**How Do Americans See Themselves?**

Americans are used to enjoying things that are probably luxuries in our countries.  
Americans can be competitive and we admire people who achieve success through hard work. Americans tend to place value and importance on looking, acting and feeling younger.  
Most American families are nuclear, consisting of parents and their children.  
Americans are accustomed to freedom of choice and expression.  
Americans enjoy their independence and they want to make their own decisions.  
Americans tend to be achievement oriented.