Unit 1
The Experience of Childhood

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Objectives

- Describe some experiences and characteristics common to children
- Discuss how different socio-cultural settings influence the experience of childhood
Some Universals

- Playfulness, make believe
- Desire for independence along with security
- Have emotions and thoughts just as adults
- A valuable time for learning
- Exploration and questioning are ways of learning
- Fascinated by adult world - pretend like them
- Learn ways appropriate in their society and culture
The specific experiences of a child which shape her being are influenced by:

- Gender
- Social Class: determined by education, occupation and family’s income. Determines the opportunities and facilities available to the child.
  - Families of Lower class
  - Families of the Middle and High Social class
  - Child Labour
- Religion
- Family structure and interrelationships
Ecological contexts — Ecology refers to the physical environment that a person lives in. It includes the geographical location, the vegetation, the type of animals and the natural resources. Also, roads, hospitals, schools and electricity. Ecology determines the type of food eaten, clothing, occupation, and the division of tasks and responsibilities between men and women.

rural/ urban/ tribal; hills/plains/desert are ecologically different.

- Living in a city (urban area)
- Living in a village (Rural Area)
- Living in a tribal settlement

Identify specific factors that influence the characteristics of childhood in your context.
Thank You