

# The Nature versus Nurture concept

---

**SJSI4017 Ass 2**

**Abi-Marie Grace**

**Student Number 1806352**



# Introduction

---

- During this presentation I will discuss
- The origin of the concept and argument.
- The main argument provided.
- The Nature argument and how it effects children.
- The Nurture argument and how it effects children.
- How it is seen today



# The Origin

---

- Originated in 1869
- Coined by Francis Galton, founder of the science of Eugenics.
- Inspired by his cousin Charles Darwins work.
- Francis favoured the nature argument as with a quote from his publication Natural Inheritance .“the child does not on the average receive so much as on half of his personal qualities from each parents” (Galton, 1889)
- Immanuel Kant believed in nature and believed there must be prior knowledge.
- John Locke believed in nurture and the importance of experiences.



# Nature Argument

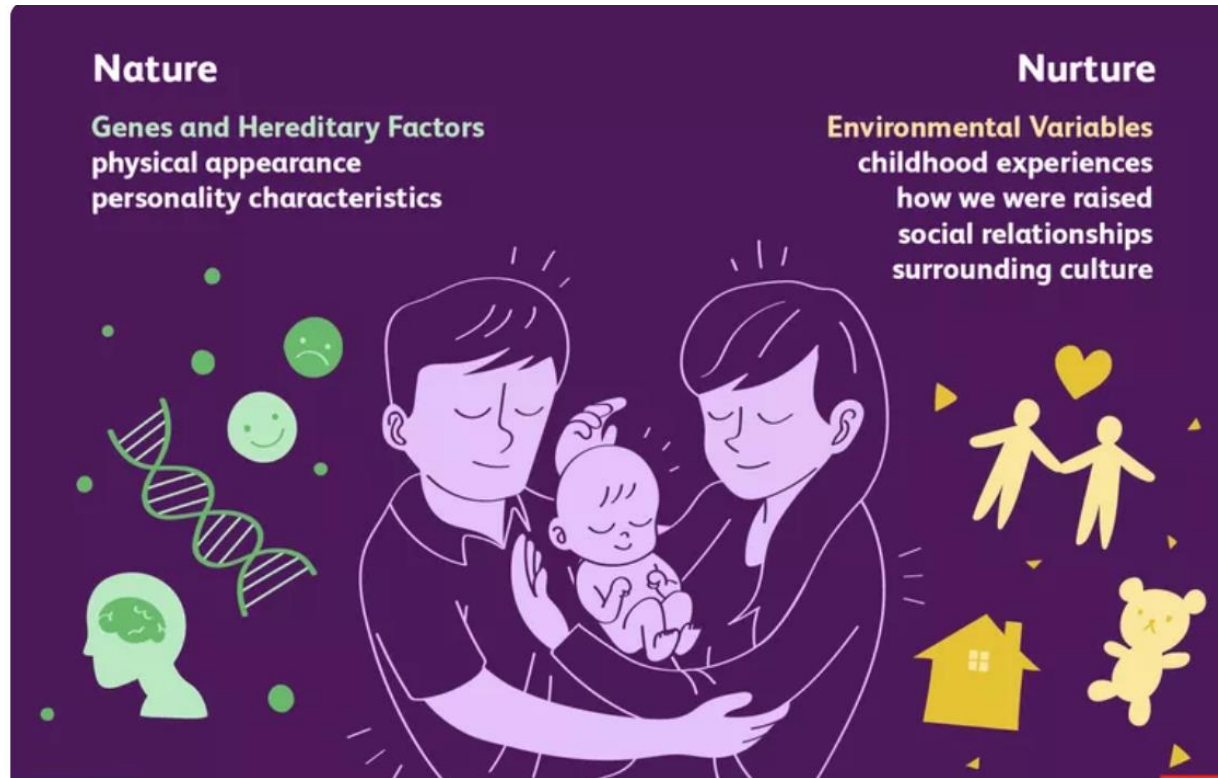
---

- Intelligence is predetermined by an individual's genetics alike eye and skin colour.
- Mental Health issues can also be passed through genetics.
- Rethink Mental Illness created a fact sheet showing the probability of mental health issues being passed through genetics.

|                                                                                                                  | Schizophrenia | Bipolar    |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|------------|
| Lifetime chance (the chance of someone in the general population developing the condition during their lifetime) | 1 in 100      | 2-3 in 100 |
| If one of your biological parents has the condition                                                              | 13 in 100     | 15 in 100  |
| If both of your biological parents have the condition                                                            | 45 in 100     | 50 in 100  |

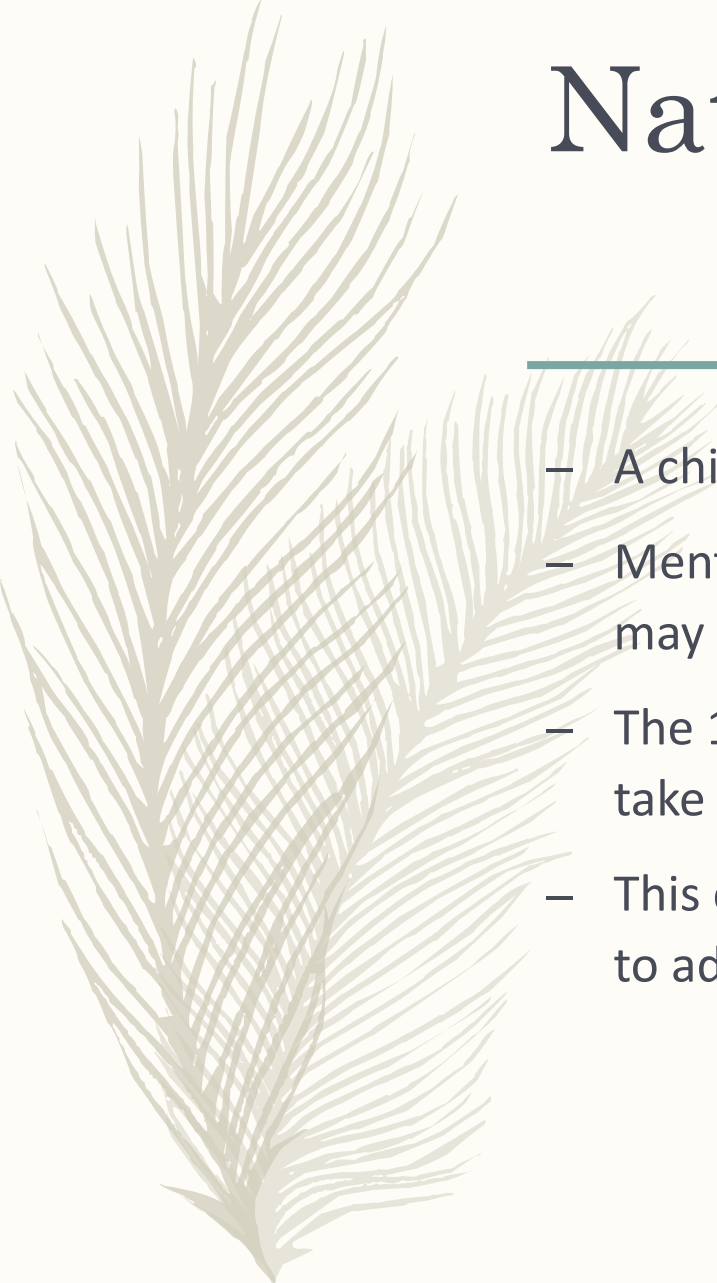
(Does mental illness run in families., 2017)

# What it is



(Cherry, 2019)

- 
- It is a concept that has been argued across decades.
  - Nature: The belief that intelligence and knowledge comes via parent's DNA.
  - Nurture: The belief that we begin life as a blank slate and develop through experiences and surrounding society.



# Nature Argument continued

---

- A child's developments may be effected by their DNA.
- Mental health issues may be passed along meaning parents with similar issues may struggle to provide a quality life.
- The 1989 Children's Act provides a focus on the welfare of the child and will take into consideration how capable parents are to support the child.
- This can result in a child being taking into care due to the parents being unable to adequately support their child and raise them.



# Nurture Argument

---

- A child is born as a blank slate
- Environmental and societal factors form the basis of who they become
- The experiences they are exposed to shape them
- A key emphasis on events occurring during the child's formative years.
- The effect is clearly seen with individual who suffered from childhood abuse.
- Investigation discovered that the wellbeing and happiness was lower than those who had not been abused as children.
- 4% more adults abused as children used drugs than those not abused.



# Nurture argument continued

---

- Cymru Well Wales has committed to providing earlier intervention.
- To prevent children being exposed to harming experiences in developing years
- NHS study discovered those who has four or more abuse childhood experiences had higher chances of misusing drink.
- Social Services Well Being (Wales) Act 2014
- Defines a child at risk as a child who “is experiencing or is at risk of abuse, neglect or other kinds of harm” ([Legislation.gov.uk](http://legislation.gov.uk), 2014)



# Present day

---

- It is primarily considered that everyone is benefiting from nature and nurture events.
- Intelligence is predetermined by genetics but the ability to apply it and develop is determined by the environment raised within
- The ability of holding perfect pitch is determined by genetics but to develop the skill takes musical training and patience which is down to nature elements.



# Conclusion

---

- Nature versus nurture debate has spanned decades and will continue to do so.
- There is a belief currently that it is a shared responsibility between both the arguments.
- The government is showing the importance of a child formative years as seen with the social services wellbeing wales act 2014 and the 1989 children's act.
- There is a clear desire for people to understand why they are who they are.
- Societal standing is increasingly important to people.



# References

---

- References
- Age-of-the-sage.org. (2019). *The nature versus nurture debate or controversy*. [online] Available at: [https://www.age-of-the-sage.org/psychology/nature\\_nurture.html](https://www.age-of-the-sage.org/psychology/nature_nurture.html) [Accessed 20 Apr. 2019].
- Cherry, K. (2019). *The Age Old Debate of Nature vs. Nurture*. [online] Verywell Mind. Available at: <https://www.verywellmind.com/what-is-nature-versus-nurture-2795392> [Accessed 20 Apr. 2019].
- Does mental illness run in families. (2017). 2nd ed. ReThink Mental Illness, p.2.
- Galton, F. (1889). *Natural Inheritance by Francis Galton*. [online] Galton.org. Available at: <http://galton.org/books/natural-inheritance/index.html> [Accessed 20 Apr. 2019].
- Legislation.gov.uk. (2014). *Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014*. [online] Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/anaw/2014/4/part/7> [Accessed 20 Apr. 2019].
- Legislation.gov.uk. (2019). *Children Act 1989*. [online] Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1989/41/section/1> [Accessed 20 Apr. 2019].



# References

---

- Locke, J. (2019). *The Works of John Locke, vol. 2 (An Essay concerning Human Understanding Part 2 and Other Writings)* - *Online Library of Liberty*. [online] Oll.libertyfund.org. Available at: <https://oll.libertyfund.org/titles/locke-the-works-vol-2-an-essay-concerning-human-understanding-part-2-and-other-writings> [Accessed 20 Apr. 2019].
- Mcleod, S. (2018). *Nature Nurture in Psychology | Simply Psychology*. [online] Simplypsychology.org. Available at: <https://www.simplypsychology.org/natureevsnurture.html> [Accessed 20 Apr. 2019].
- Ons.gov.uk. (2019). *People who were abused as children are more likely to be abused as an adult - Office for National Statistics*. [online] Available at: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/articles/peoplewhowereabusedaschildrenaremorelikelytobeabusedasanadult/2017-09-27> [Accessed 20 Apr. 2019].
- ORIGINS. (2019). *Nature vs Nurture*. [online] Available at: <http://experimental-origins.weebly.com/nature-vs-nurture.html> [Accessed 20 Apr. 2019].
- ScienceDaily. (2012). *Perfect pitch: Knowing the note may be in your genes*. [online] Available at: <https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2012/10/121023124000.htm> [Accessed 19 Apr. 2019].
- The Chronicle of Higher Education. (2009). *The Nature-Nurture Debate, Redux*. [online] Available at: <https://www.chronicle.com/article/The-Nature-Nurture-Debate/33480> [Accessed 20 Apr. 2019].
- Wales.nhs.uk. (2016). *Public Health Wales | Children who suffer abuse more likely to be involved in violence & misuse drugs & alcohol as adults*. [online] Available at: <http://www.wales.nhs.uk/sitesplus/888/news/40000/> [Accessed 17 Apr. 2019].
- Wales.nhs.uk. (2018). *Public Health Wales | Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)*. [online] Available at: <http://www.wales.nhs.uk/sitesplus/888/page/88524> [Accessed 20 Apr. 2019].