

# Contents

<i>List of figures</i>	ix
<i>List of tables</i>	xi
<b>1 Introduction</b>	<b>1</b>
Stages of the Lifespan	2
Important Themes in Relationship Development	2
Cultural and Subcultural Issues	3
The Effects of One Relationship on Another	4
Methodological Issues	4
Organization of this Volume	5
<b>2 Infancy and Childhood</b>	<b>6</b>
Before the First Relationship: from General Sociability to the Threshold of Attachment	7
The Maturation of Readiness for a Relationship	7
Defining Attachment	11
The Roots of Attachment in Mother–Infant Interaction	11
Attachment as an Integrated Behavioural System	14
Naturalistic and Laboratory-based Assessments of Infant–Parent Attachment	14
The Strange Situation	16
What Determines a Secure Parent–Child Attachment?	19
Relationship with Parents during Childhood: Long-term Consequences	21
Social Intelligence: Growth of a Theory of Mind	23
Opposition and Negotiation in the Parent–Toddler Relationship: The Phenomenon of Negativism	24
Acquiring Persuasion Skills	26
Family Dialogue and Household Work	28
Parental Discipline Strategies	29
Marital Conflict and Children’s Development	31
Siblings and Development	33
Differential Parental Treatment and Sibling Rivalry	36

vi Contents

Sibling–Sibling Interaction and Individual Development	39
Peers as Playmates and Agents of Socialization	39
The Peer Group and Sociometric Measurement	41
Predictors of Popularity	43
Summary	44
<b>3 Relationships During Adolescence</b>	<b>46</b>
Parent–Adolescent Relationships	46
Developments in Peer Relationships	58
Romantic Relationships	69
Summary and Conclusions	79
<b>4 Early Adulthood</b>	<b>81</b>
Becoming an Adult	81
The Importance of Relationships with Parents	82
Sibling Relationships	83
Living Together	86
Marriage	88
Transition to Parenthood	93
Adult Friendships	97
Social Support	101
Summary and Conclusions	104
<b>5 Relationships in Middle Age</b>	<b>105</b>
Defining Middle Age	105
Gender and Middle Age	106
Marital Relationships in Middle Age	106
Parenting in Midlife	112
Attachments in Relationships between Adult Children and their Parents	113
Friendships in Midlife	117
Summary	118
<b>6 Personal Relationships and the Elderly</b>	<b>119</b>
Defining Old Age	119
Pessimistic Views of Later Life	119
Importance of Relationships in Later Life	120
Ambivalent Relations between Family Members and Elderly People	120
Transitions in Later Life	121
Dealing with Change	123
Marriage Relationships in Later Life	123
Loss of Spouse	125
Relationships with Adult Children	126
Sibling Relationships in Later Life	127

Grandparenting	128
Variables Affecting the Grandparent–Grandchild Relationship	131
Friendships in Later Life	132
Illness and the Elderly	134
Care of the Elderly	135
Elder Abuse	137
Future Trends in Relationships of the Elderly	138
Summary	139
<b>7 Relationships Across the Lifespan: Key Themes and Concepts</b>	<b>140</b>
Attachment	140
Intimacy	141
Communication	142
Conflict	143
Power and Control	144
Cultural and Subcultural Issues	145
Effects of One Relationship on Another	146
Future Patterns in Family Relationships	147
<i>References</i>	149
<i>Author index</i>	179
<i>Subject index</i>	187