**The development of virtue: Early childhood and the nurturance of care**

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Developmental study of virtue and moral character in early childhood can inform virtue ethics.  This chapter summarizes research on young children showing that an early-developing sensitivity to others' goals, needs and feelings contributes to an emerging premoral sensibility that influences judgments of fairness, sensitivity to intentions, and contrbutes to an emergent "moral self".  Further growth in the development of conscience (an internalized moral sense) derives from warm and mutually responsive parent-child relationships that foster cooperation, concern for others, and other aspects of positive conduct.  In particular, parent-child conversation that focuses on others' feelings and needs contributes more to early conscience development than parental focus on rules and the consequences of breaking them.  By contrast with traditional portrayals of the egocentric, self-interested young child, therefore, virtue has developmental origins in an early premoral sensibility arising from children's rapidly developing understanding of people and nurtured by supportive relationships of parental care.