

Orchid Children and Homoeopathy

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Abstract: *The orchid features regularly in Greek mythology. Firstly as a man named 'Orchis' who was said to have been born of a nymph and a satyr (half man half goat). It is reported that he disgraced himself by attempting to sexually assault a priestess, his punishment for this was to be ripped apart by wild animals, after which his form was shifted into the iconic plant known today as the Orchid. Orchids are the most sensual among all plants in their appearance, to touch and in their scents. In addition, women of Greek origin believed that they could determine the sex of their unborn infants with the roots of the Orchid. Children cases have the most fantastic results with homoeopathy. This article emphasis on history, origin, characteristics of orchid children and rubric related to it present in Murphy's repertory which will help in selection of simillimum in such cases.*

Keywords: Orchid Children, Homoeopathy, Murphy's Repertory

1. Introduction

"Orchid children" are kids that dislike change, notice subtle smells or emotions, and usually do well on tests but may fail if being watched. An "orchid child" is one who dislikes change, notices subtle smells or emotions, and usually does well on tests but may fail if being watched¹.

History and Origin

Orchid kids make up about 15 to 20 percent of the population. Dr. Tom Boyce, a developmental pediatrician, coined the term to describe kids who have a biological predisposition to react strongly to their environment. In one of his studies Boyce followed a group of children who were facing the challenge of attending school for the first time². "The orchid kids who were placed in a classroom with a supportive, encouraging, warm teacher," he says, "had far fewer respiratory illnesses than the 'dandelion kids,' who are less reactive. "But the orchid kids who were placed in an overcrowded, large classroom with a teacher who didn't have much time for them, had far more respiratory illnesses than all the other children³.

Characteristics Of Orchid Children⁴

Vulnerable and Resistant

"Orchid kids have either the very worst or the very best outcomes, depending upon the quality of the environments they are in," Boyce sums up. "So the same child can be both vulnerable and resilient."

The best and worst of health

Orchid kids who continually experience high stress in difficult environments may develop problems such as depression, hyperactivity, anxiety, and even criminality.

Childhood stress may also induce orchid kids to go through puberty early. As a result, they may face some of the problems associated with early puberty such as teenage pregnancy, eating disorders, substance abuse, and for girls, a 10 to 20 percent higher risk of breast cancer later in life.

In studies it was found that the orchid kids in stable families with healthy parent-child relationships enjoyed a longer childhood than the other children, starting puberty later and going through it more slowly.

But the orchid children who were raised in families in which there was conflict between parents, and negativity and coercion in parent-child relationships, started puberty sooner and proceeded through it faster.

Classification of Children according to Behavior⁵

While studying children, researchers of behavioural psychology have categorized them broadly into 2 categories- the dandelions and the orchids. The term "Orchid child" surfaced in the early part of the 21st century.

DANDELION

- O The dandelion is a resilient flower- growing and thriving in almost any circumstances; similarly, the dandelion children are perseverant through the big and small challenges life brings upon them. An orchid child is, however, different.

Orchid

- O Just like the orchid flowers, these children need highly specific environment to bloom and are easily thrown off course by most of the life situations.

Studies Suggests^{6,7,8}

- In the study on the thriving capacity and coping strategies of children, researchers found that about 1/5th of kids suffered and struggled with certain everyday situations, that majority of them did not.
- What characterizes an orchid child is its high level of sensitivity. This 'hypersensitivity' is mainly towards their environment.
- The consideration of an environment while considering of a child mainly relates to the various stimuli a child receives from the surroundings and his own adaptability towards these stimuli which are nothing but the reaction patterns the child develops. Minuscule changes (stimuli) to which most children are immune on a day to day basis can derail orchid children by shaking up their economy.

- The beginning life of these children is not an issue as most infants and toddlers are clingy and fussy and often big crowds and new situations throw them into a jitter-out of their comfort zone. The school age, though, wears down such sensitive souls- and more so their parents. These children thrive on routine activity. Picky eating, sensitivity to noise, having a hard time adjusting to change are the highlights of an orchid child.
- Orchid children tend to be introvert- this reaction comes from the disappointment they feel in social situations when they are often incorrectly understood and or bluntly remarked at. Orchid children are at a higher risk for behavioural issues, depression, substance dependency and an un- proportionate stress response.
- A seed has no liberty to decide in what flower it will blossom into. Researches believe that genetics play an important part in making children fall into the fragile orchid category.
- Every child is special to its parents and all parents love their children the way they are: an orchid or dandelion. Making a parent aware of the orchid in their child does not label them for sympathy, but infact empowers them.
- Parents of orchid children need to understand that just like their child is hypersensitive to environmental changes (read situations), he is also highly susceptible to the supportive and positive environments.
- When handled carefully, the orchid child will be capable enough to develop normal response pattern as opposed to the exaggerated one- and this in the long run will help them understand and manage themselves better. This understanding will keep them from spiraling into all the negative outcomes associated with a hypersensitive child.

Homoeopathy and Orchid Children^{9,10}

- It has been observed that orchid children are more prone to illness: most often of the respiratory kind. In such situations, frequent visits to the doctor, frequent absenteeism from school and the burden of the conventional medical treatment in itself becomes a stress to the child. However, with a gentle therapy like homoeopathy, orchids experience less illnesses and a marked improvement in the quality of life.
- The general hypersensitivity exhibited by the orchid children is infact a benefit while preparing any intervention plans for them. Being highly susceptible, they respond extremely well to our potent medicines.
- While studying a child according to homoeopathic principles, the child's mental and physical makeup are studied and considered against the background of a theoretically average normal child. We note the salient features in which the child under consideration differs from this theoretical norm- whatever be the title of the disease.
- A homoeopath understands that an orchid child is only an individual which has different needs than the predetermined normal child.
- Homoeopathy is a highly viable option which will immensely help parents to raise an orchid in a crowd of dandelions.
- They have proven to be powerful remedies in children with ADHD, dyslexia, speech difficulties and other

learning disorders. Orchid remedies are increasingly needed in the "new child" that is overly adapted to technology and affected by it, leading to disorders of the autism-spectrum and Asperger's

- There are physical affinities for sexual organs, feet and body orifices, with prominent neurological symptoms, as well as fungal infections and allergies.
- Portraits are offered for over thirty individual Orchid remedies like *Vanilla planifolia* and *Cypripedium pubescens* as well as many new remedies.

1. Homoeopathic Medical Repertory¹¹

Dr. Robin Murphy

In Homoeopathic Medical Repertory, Dr. Murphy has given a chapter on children. It is very useful in the management of disorders of children.

Rubrics given are such as:

- Constitutional remedies: calc., calc.p., phos.puls., sil., -3
- Emaciation with: Calc.3, sil.2
- Girls at puberty: Graph-2
- Abused ailments from being
- Anger with: Coloc.-3
- Indignation- ign., staph.3
- Sexual abuse from
- Violence from
- Abusive children who insults parents
- Acetonemia in child: Phenobarbitalum
- Acromegaly: Bar.c.2
- Adenoids, problems with: Carc., tub., 3
- Angry children: Cham., cina-3
- Anorexia nervosa_Ars., chin., Staph-3
- Anxious children
- Concentration difficult: Bar.c., med., -3
- Confidence lack of self
- Growth disorders
- Hyperactive children
- Insomnia
- Rejected feelings
- Rude children

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