

WORRIES AND FEARS OF FOURTH-GRADE
STUDENTS IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
OF MANHATTAN, KANSAS, 1971

by 6791

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

While fear, anxiety, and worry by definition are somewhat different, they also are in some ways synonymous. In this study, the researcher looked at the synonymous characteristics and used the terms interchangeably. Worry was defined as to feel uneasy about some uncertain or threatening matter; to be troubled; to work under difficulty or hardship; to struggle; to feel anxious, distressed, or troubled; mental uneasiness or anxiety. Anxiety may be defined as a state of uneasiness and distress about the future; uncertainties, apprehension, worry; intense fear or dread lacking an unambiguous cause or a specific threat. Fear is defined as a feeling of alarm or disquiet caused by the expectation of danger, pain, disaster, or the like; terror; dread; or apprehension.

Fear is not confined to adulthood. All persons from birth until death experience fear. Studies in the past have shown infant fears include loud noises; loss of support; sudden, unexpected or novel stimuli; or, any condition which demands some kind of adaptation for which the organism is unprepared. With the development of the child's imaginative abilities, he becomes increasingly concerned with imaginary dangers. With the development of competitiveness and awareness of status comes fear of ridicule or loss of prestige. As a child matures, there is a decline in overt signs of fear. Maurer (1965) found children