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## The Ability of Young Children to Distinguish Between Morality and Convention

By Joerg Boettcher

GRIN Verlag, Paperback. Condition: New. 92 pages. Dimensions: 8.3in. x 5.8in. x 0.2in. Diploma Thesis from the year 2001 in the subject Psychology - Developmental Psychology, grade: 1, 0, Free University of Berlin, 95 entries in the bibliography, language: English, abstract: In this diploma thesis I want to consider several approaches in the area of moral development research. Given the theory of Lawrence Kohlberg, young children (younger than 10 years of age) seem to stay completely under the constraints of authorities and rules. According to Kohlberg, children's social judgments and behaviors are determined by instrumental aims to satisfy their own needs and wishes, or to avoid punishment. In this regard, the helping of others or meeting the needs of others is only motivated by instrumental considerations. Thus, in Kohlberg's view young children are not able to think or to act in a genuinely moral way. In reaction to Kohlberg, other researchers have suggested that young children are capable to make genuinely moral judgments and to act in a moral way. Eisenberg (e. g. 1986) has suggested that young children can have empathic or altruistic feelings which lead them to conduct prosocial acts. Other researchers (e. g. Keller, 1996; Nunner-Winkler, 1993) assert...



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