Invulnerables Encyclopedia Article

Invulnerables

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Invulnerables

Term used to describe children who deal well with adversity.

Invulverables are children who seem to be unaffected by adverse home and socioeconomic environmental conditions in which they live. These children are subjected to family and economic stresses, and yet exhibit remarkable coping skills. Psychologists have frequently targeted this group for study, since the so-called invulnerables provide opportunities to study the psychosocial and parental factors, along with personality characteristics, that enable them to succeed despite adverse home environments. Psychologists have attempted to identify what factors enable these children to succeed despite their seeming lack of support and opportunity. Researchers have been more successful in identifying factors that lead to a child's lack of success in school than in identifying those complex personality and environmental factors that contribute to resilience in the face of adversity. Among the factors that appear to contribute to an invulnerable's success is one significant, supportive relationship with an older adolescent or adult.