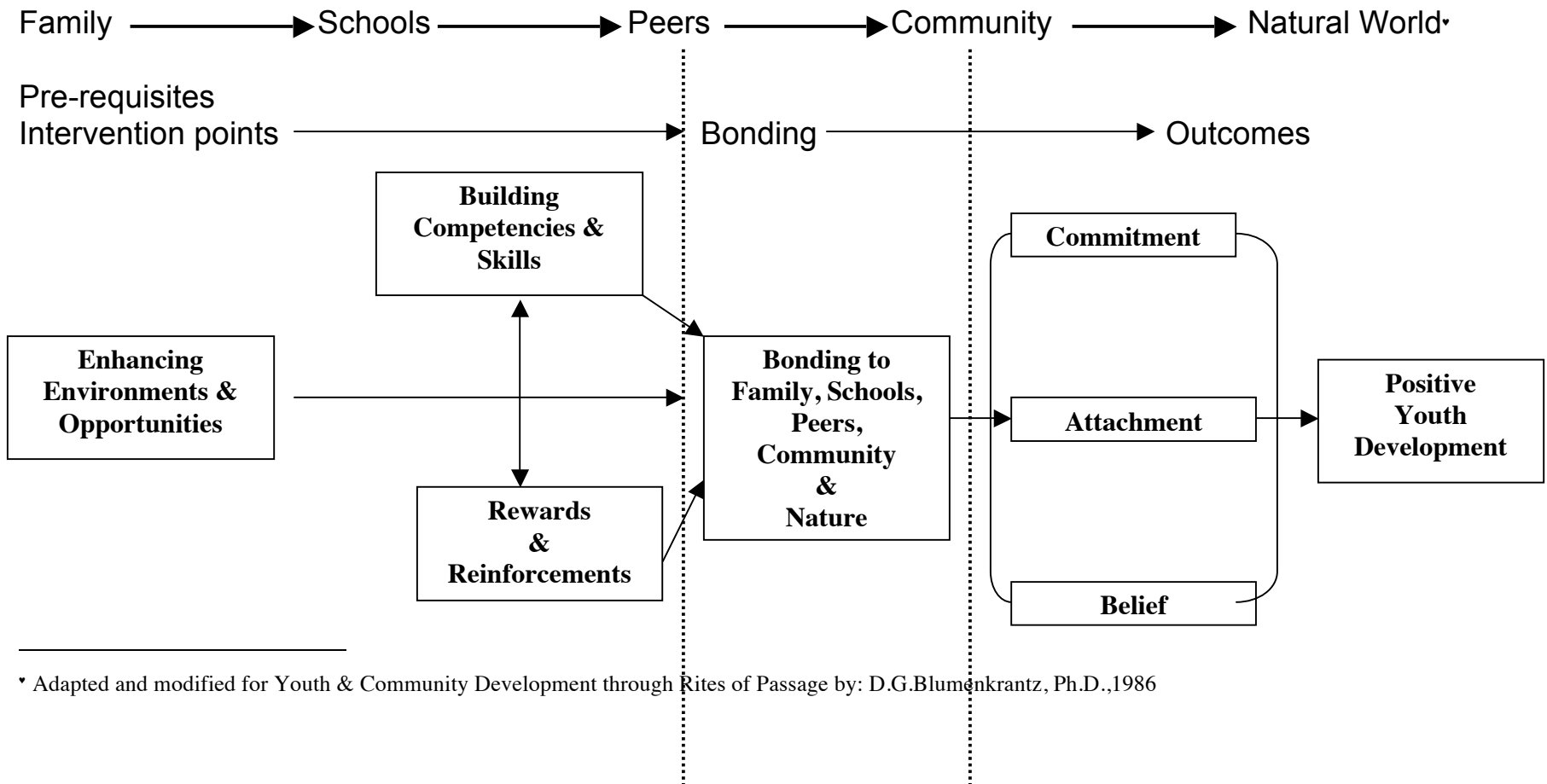# THE SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT MODEL[*]

Drs. J. David Hawkins and Richard Catalano at the University of Washington

Children come of age and mature within a number of different settings and environments. Youth development involves **connecting** and **enhancing** environments and building competencies which promote the positive development of children and youth in their families, schools, and among peers in their community and with a strong connection to the natural world. These are the settings or environments that chldren come of age. Maturation in these places require learning certain skills, achieving competencies and demonstrating competencies in mature behavior. Identifying the skills, values, and beliefs necessary to achieve competency and act mature in each environment is essential. This promotes whole human beings and strong, resilient and adaptive communities. Activities intensify focus on particular values, attitudes and competencies expected within each environment. Demonstrations of competencies and family and community celebrations periodically mark special times in a child's development. The accompanying conversation guide will help you and your child explore the expectations for mature behaviors in each setting and the lessons and skills needed to achieve these desired behaviors.

Impact of major systems/environments on child development = *Initiation opportunities*.

[*] Adapted and modified for Youth & Community Development through Rites of Passage by: D.G.Blumenkrantz, Ph.D.,1986