Minuchin’s Healthy Family Hierarchy

Three subsystems define different roles, and the hierarchy indicates that the adults have more influence and responsibility. The parenting and spousal roles are separate as the marriage needs to be a priority and safeguarded from the requirements of parenting.

**Spousal Subsystem:**

Wife and Husband Roles

Sexuality, dating one another and the beginning of the relationship exists here and is separate from the parenting relationship

*Impermeable Membrane separates the two subsystems*

**Parental Subsystem:**

Mother and Father Roles:

Parenting together and separately, each is a Resource to the other, interact with the children

*Semi-permeable membrane allows parents and children to interact*

**Sibling Subsystem:**

Children

The children are resources to one another,

The children rely on their parents and interact with them

Parents and children are influenced by one another