

## Chimps have lessons for us: Goodall

Scientist's observations of primates' relationships with their mothers offers insight on human issues

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A mother's support in the first two years of life hugely contributes to a chimpanzee's well-being, primatologist Jane Goodall said yesterday, citing 20 years of data from East Africa.

"It was clear (to me) from the beginning that there were good mothers and bad mothers," she said of her celebrated chimp observations in the 1960s at Gombe National Park, Tanzania. "As the years went by, it became increasingly clear that, if you are a young chimpanzee, you have a much better start if your mother is protective, playful, affectionate, patient and above all supportive," she said, "than if your mother is harsher, punitive and above all less supportive.

"(Less-supportive mothers) tend to have offspring who grow up to become tense, nervous in their interactions with others, and to play a less dominant role in the reproductive success of their community."

Her studies offer insight into humans as well, Goodall said in an interview. She lectures Saturday at the University of Toronto's Convocation Hall.

"Looking around at society and seeing what children have to endure in those first two years, which is sometimes grim, helps to understand the dysfunctional behaviour you see in older kids," she said.

Goodall first set foot in Africa 50 years ago, on a visit to Kenya when she was 23. In 1965, upon earning a doctorate in ethnology from Cambridge, she began her revolutionary chimpanzee studies at Lake Tanganyika, discovering that chimps strip leaves from twigs and use them to dig termites from a nest.

Until then, only humans were believed to make tools.

Her lecture on the need to protect Africa's great apes and other wildlife begins 7 p.m. Saturday. Tomorrow, she attends a fundraiser marking the 30th anniversary of the Jane Goodall Institute and on Sunday a children's educational fair. Go to [janegoodall.ca](http://janegoodall.ca) for information.