

Infancy & Childhood

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Physical Development Of Infants

An infant's physical development **begins at the head and moves** to other parts of the body.

For example, newborn to 2 months can lift and turn the head when lying on his or her back, hands are fisted and the arms are flexed. The neck is **unable to support** the head when the infant is pulled to a sitting position. Once the reach 9 to 12 months infants begins to **balance while standing alone**.



Physical Development Of A Child

Ages 2 through 6 are the early childhood years, or preschool years. Like infants and toddlers, preschoolers **grow quickly**, both physically and cognitively. A short chubby toddler who can barely talk suddenly becomes a taller, leaner child who talks incessantly. Especially during early childhood is the fact that development is truly integrated. **The biological, psychological, and social** changes occurring at this time also throughout the rest of the **life span**.



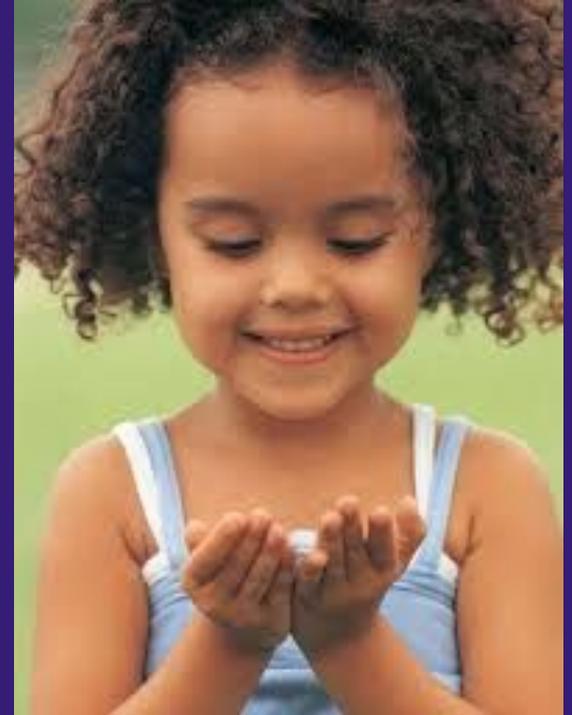
Cognitive Development of Infants



An infant's behavior comes from the behavioral instincts they follow. They work off of basic necessity and **reflexive behaviors** such as the need for food, air and attention. Infants begin to develop **Object Permanence** which is the understanding that an object still exists even if they can't see it (peek-a-boo). They also begin to show **goal-directed behavior**. Infants start to think about what they want to do, how they're going to do it and then they do it. In addition, babies introduce the connections between a series of events and **connections** to objects. For example, when they see a bottle they know they're going to be fed.

Cognitive Development of a Child

In ages 2 through 7, children develop memory and imagination. They begin to understand the concepts of past and future. This is also known as the **Preoperational Stage**. Children between the age of 6 to 12 years old, develop concrete ways of thinking. They start to put things together, separate, order and transform objects and actions. This is called **Concrete Operations(Concrete Operational Stage)**.



Jean Piaget's Four Stages of Development

<p>Sensorimotor Stage (Birth- 2yrs)</p>	<p>During this stage, children develop Object Permanence which is knowing that an object still exists even if it's hidden. It requires the ability to form a mental representation of the object</p>
<p>Preoperational Stage (2yrs - 7yrs)</p>	<p>During this stage, young children are able to think about things symbolically. This is the ability to make one thing stand for something other than itself.</p>
<p>Concrete Operational Stage (7yrs - 11yrs)</p>	<p>This is considered the major turning point in the child's cognitive development and marks the beginning of operational thought. This means the child can work things out internally in their head.</p>
<p>Formal Operational Stage (11yrs - older)</p>	<p>During this time, people develop the ability to think about abstract concepts, and logically test ideas and hypotheses.</p>

Schemas

Definition: mental representations of the world

Each of us constructs intellectual schemas that we change and apply as needed. To understand a new object or concept, we try to incorporate it within one of our preexisting schemas. In the **assimilation** process, we try to fit the new object or concept within a schema. In the **accommodation** process, we change our schema to fit the characteristics of the new object. These two processes work together to produce intellectual growth. When experiences do not fit within a schema, new schemas must be made and this is how the child begins to see and understand things differently.



Social Development

It refers how people develop social and emotional skills across the lifespan, especially in childhood and adolescence.

Social development of a Baby

Babies start to develop relationships with the people around them right from birth, but the process of learning to **communicate**, **share**, and **interact** with others takes many years to develop. **Developing** the ability to control your **emotions** and **behavior** is also a long process.



Social Development of a child

The people and settings that are most closely **involved** with the child – **family, school and peers** – are the ones the most **influence** them. Through their daily contact with parents, carers, family members, school staff, as well as with their peers, children learn about the **social world** and about the **rules, practices and values** that support it. By actively participating in these relationships, children also affect the ways that adults and their peers relate to them.



Review Questions

- 1) Where does an infant's physical development start at?
- 2) How can the people around you influence your behavior?
- 3) What is the epitome schemas?

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Contract:

Psychological Development - Amari

Cognitive Development - Kaili

Social Development - Ana