

# Module 8: Infancy and childhood



# Social Development

# Social Learning Theory

-Learning is a cognitive process that takes place in a social context and can occur purely through observation or direct instruction.

Gender Role- Set of societal norms dictating types of behaviors which are generally considered acceptable or desirable based on perceived sex or sexuality.

Gender Identity- One's inner most concept of self as male, female, both or neither.

Gender-typing- Process by which a child becomes aware of their gender and thus behave accordingly.

- German-born American developmental psychologist and psychoanalyst. Coined the phrase identity crisis.



# Psychosocial Stages of Development

Developed by Erikson. Comprehensive psychoanalytic theory that identifies a series of eight stages.

Stages:

Trust Vs. Mistrust- First stage of theory. Begins at birth and lasts through first year of age. Infants learn to trust their caregivers.

Autonomy Vs. Shame and Doubt- Child develops physically and becomes more mobile. Stage occurs between 18 months and three years. Children begin to act more independent.

initiative Vs. Guilt- Stage takes place during preschool years. Begin to feel some form of control in the world. Expressed through play and other social interaction.

# Physical Development

# Prenatal Development

Process of development of embryos/fetuses from fertilization until birth.

Zygote- Diploid cell resulting from fusion of two haploid gametes.

Embryo- Unborn offspring in process of development.

Fetus- Unborn offspring of mammal which is more than eight weeks after conception.

Teratogens- Agent or factor that causes malformation of an embryo.

-Fetal Alcohol Syndrome- Spectrum disorder caused by drinking alcohol during pregnancy.

# Reflexes

Rooting reflex- A reflex that ensures successful breastfeeding

Sucking reflex- Sucking reflex from an infants lips

Grasping reflex- When a object is placed between there hands

Moro reflex- Spreading of arms and crying of infants

Babinski reflex- Big toe remains extended when sole of the foot is stimulated



# Gross motor skills

Larger movements a baby makes like crawling and running



# Fine motor skills

Smaller movements a baby makes like drawing



Jean Piaget

# Jean Piaget

- Piaget was a psychologist that worked in child development and cognitive psychology and he's known for his development in genetic epistemology

Piaget played a part in discovering the following:

Object Permanence - The understanding that objects continue to exist even when they can't be observed

Preoperational Stage - 2nd stage in Piaget's theory on cognitive development; When kids are around age 2 they begin to learn and remember symbols

Sensorimotor Stage -

# Jean Piaget Cont.

Egocentric - Around the ages of 2-7 when a child can't use combine, transform, or use logic to separate ideas

Pretend Play - The stage when a child uses their imagination during the 2 different stages: Fantasy and Sociodramatic Play

Concrete Operational Stage - When a child is capable of performing a variety of mental

Formal Operational Stage - Starts from around age 12 and lasts into adulthood, logic, reasoning, and systematic planning come from this stage

Metacognition - Awareness and understanding of one's own thought process

# Jean Piaget Cont.

Conservation - Logical thinking which is not present in children

Baby Mathematics - The way a baby thinks something will happen. For example, if a truck rolled down a hill but was stopped by a block, the baby would think it's going to get stopped by a block again even if it isn't.

# Cognitive Development

# Attachment

- A strong emotional connection.
- **Imprinting**- any kind of phase-sensitive learning that is rapid and apparently independent of the consequences of behavior.
- **Harlow's Monkey experiments**- Experimented on monkeys to see how important companionship and caregiving is to a baby.
- **Critical Period**- a period during someone's development in which a particular skill or characteristic is believed to be most readily acquired.
- **Temperament**- Refers to those aspects of an individual's personality



# Attachment Cont.

Mary Ainsworth Strange Situation- procedure which observed relationships between a caregiver and child

Secure attachment- When the caregiver leaves but the child knows that they will come back

Avoidant attachment- When the child avoids the parents

Anxious/ambivalent attachment- When infants don't feel reassured when a caregiver comes back after leaving

# Attachment Cont.

Stranger anxiety- A form of distress children get when seeing strangers

Separation anxiety- A form of distress children get when they are separated from their caregiver

# Schemas

- Describes a pattern of thought or behavior that organizes categories of information and the relationships among them.

Assimilation- The process by which a person or persons acquire the social and psychological characteristics of a group

Accommodation- when events happen which modify your existing schemas.