

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.