

General Psychology - Chapter 11: The Developing Mind

Survival reflexes infants are born with:

- Rooting - touch cheek, and they open mouth and search for nipple
- Swallowing - put something on lips, and they swallow
- Moro - startle them, and they arch back, arms fling out sideways
- Grasping - put finger in their palm, and they'll grasp it
- Stepping - hold them up, and they'll step forward

Schema - a concept or framework that helps us organize and interpret the world around us

Assimilation - interpreting one's new experiences in terms of an old schema

Accommodation - modifying one's schema so that it can incorporate new information

Piaget's Developmental Stages

- Sensorimotor stage (0-2 yrs)
 - children discover by sensing and doing
 - Children begin differentiating old things and new things
 - Schema of casualty develops (If I do A then B happens)
 - Object permanence develops - awareness that things continue to exist even if not immediately perceived
 - Egocentric thought - 'all about me'
- Preoperational stage (2-6yrs)
 - Language develops
 - Theory of mind develops - ability to take another's perspective
- Concrete operational stage (6-12 yrs)
 - ❖ Conservation develops
- Formal operational stage (12+ yrs)
 - ❖ Abstract thinking develops

Attachment- an emotional tie with another person

Functions of Early Infant Attachment

- “Safe Haven”
 - When **distressed**, an attachment figure provides a source of **comfort**.
- “Secure Base”
 - When in **new environment**, an attachment figure offers a source of affection and security that promotes **exploration**.

Infant Attachment Styles

- **Secure** attachment style
 - In presence of mother, child freely explored but may return for reassurance.
 - When mother leave, child is distressed
 - When mother returns, child seeks contact
- **Avoidant** attachment style
 - In presence of mother, child may explore but less than securely attached child
 - When mother leaves, child rarely cries or may show anger
 - When mother returns, child avoids her
- **Anxious/Ambivalent** attachment style
 - Even in presence of mother, child may show anxiety
 - When mother leave, child is distressed
 - When mother returns, child seeks contact but also resists it by kicking or squirming