

## Chapter 11- Development

- Developmental psychology- study of continuity and change across the life span

### Prenatality: A Womb with a View

- Zygote- fertilized egg that contains chromosomes from both egg and sperm
- Germinal stage- 2-week period that begins at conception
- Embryonic stage- period that lasts from 2-8<sup>th</sup> week
- Fetal stage- period that lasts from 9<sup>th</sup> week until birth
- Myelination- formation of fatty sheath around axons of neuron
- Teratogens- agents that impair development
- Fetal alcohol syndrome (FAS)- developmental disorder that stems from heavy alcohol use by the mother during pregnancy

### Infancy and Childhood: Becoming a Person

- Infancy- stage of development that begins at birth and last between 18-24 months
- Motor development- emergence of ability to execute physical actions
- Reflexes- specific patter of motor response that are triggered by specific patters of sensory stimulation
  - Rooting reflex- tendency for infants to move mouths towards any object that touches their cheek
  - Sucking reflex- tendency to suck any object that enters mouth
- Cephalocaudal rule (top to bottom)- tendency for motor skills to emerge in sequence from head to feet
- Proximosdistal rule (inside to outside)- tendency for motor skills to emerge in sequence from center to periphery
- Cognitive development- emergence of ability to think and understand
- Piaget's 4 stages:
  1. Sensorimotor- period of development that begins at birth and lasts through infancy
    - Schemas- theories about the way the world works
    - Assimilation- infants apply schemas in novel situations
    - Accommodation- infants revise schemas in light of new info.
    - Object permanence- belief that object exist even when they are not visible
  2. Preoperational stage- stage of cognitive development that begins at 2 years and ends at about 6 years, during which children develop a preliminary understanding of the physical world
    - Childhood- period that begins at 18-24 months and lasts until 11-14 years
    - Centration- tendency to focus on just one property of an object to exclusion of all others

- o Reversibility
- 3. Concrete operational stage- stage of cognitive development that begins at about 6 years and ends at about 11 years, during which children learn how actions or “operations” can transform the “concrete” objects of the physical world
  - o Conservation- notion that the quantitative properties of an object are invariant despite change in the object’s appearance
- 4. Formal operational stage- final stage of cognitive development that begins at age 11, during which children learn to reason about abstract concepts
- Egocentrism- failure to understand that the world appears differently to different people
- Theory of mind- understanding that other people’s mental representations guide their behavior
  - o Autism & deaf children whose parents don’t know sign language
  - o Number of siblings, frequency of pretend play, imaginary companions, socioeconomic status of the child’s family, language
- 3 skills for learning
  - o Joint attention- ability to focus on what another person is focused on
  - o Imitation- tendency to do what an adult does/intends to do
    - Over-imitation
  - o Social referencing- using another person’s reactions as information about how we should think of the world
- Strange situation- behavioral test used to determine a child’s attachment style
  - o Secure- caregiver leaves and infant is distressed or not, and when they return, if they are non-distressed, they will acknowledge their caregiver and if they are distressed they are calmed by them
  - o Avoidant- infant not distressed, not acknowledged when returns
  - o Ambivalent- infant distressed, infant refuses attempt to calm
  - o Disorganize- no consistent pattern of response
- Temperaments- characteristic patterns of emotional reactivity
- Internal working model of relationships- set of beliefs about self, primary caregiver, and relationship between them
- Piaget’s moral thinking
  1. Realism to relativism
  2. Prescriptions to principles
  3. Outcomes to intentions
- Kohlberg’s stages
  1. Preconventional stage- stage of moral development in which the morality of an action is primarily determined by its consequences for the action
  2. Conventional stage- stage of moral development in which the morality of an action is primarily determined by the extent to which it conforms to social rules

3. Postconventional stage- stage of moral development in which the morality of an action is determined by a set of general principles that reflect core values
- Moral intuitionist perspective- we have evolved to react emotionally to a small family of events that are particularly relevant to reproduction and survival

#### Adolescence: Minding the Gap

- Adolescence- period of development that begins with the onset of sexual maturity (11-14 years) and last until the beginning of adulthood (18-21 years)
- Puberty- bodily changes associated with sexual maturity
- Primary sex characteristics- bodily structures directly involved in reproduction
- Secondary sex characteristics- bodily structures that change dramatically with sexual maturity but are not directly involved with reproduction

#### Adulthood: Change We Can't Believe In

- Adulthood- stage of development that begins around 18-21 years and ends at death
- Socioemotional selectivity theory- younger adults are largely orientated toward acquisition of information that will be useful to them in the future while older adults are generally orientated toward information that brings emotional satisfaction in the present
- Married people live longer, have more frequent sex, and earn several times as much money as unmarried people