

Child Development: Risk and Opportunity
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Chapter 2

Psychoanalytic Theory:

- Structure of personality: from birth, individual is endowed with biologically based sexual and aggressive instincts
- Libido: sex drive, constant drive for pleasure
- Pleasure principle: instant gratification
- Ego functions on the reality principle
- Superego: morality, conscience
- Ego attempts to satisfy ID. Destined to fail: unconscious anxiety, If too well: unconscious guilt
- Can fight back with defense mechanisms: repression, denial, rationalization
- Psychosexual Personality (1-6 years of life)
 - Oral (1-18 months): sucking behavior
 - Anal(18 months-4 years): Defecation
 - Phallic Stage: selects opposite sex parent as love object (oedipal complex, electra complex)
 - Latency: Repression of drives during middle school
 - Genital: Rebirth of drives

Erikson's Psychosocial Theory:

- Development of ego through 8 stages. Resolution=Permanent
 - Oral: Trust vs Mistrust = Sense of trust
 - Anal: Autonomy vs Shame = Sense of Autonomy, power and decision making
 - Mutual regulation: sensitive/reciprocal caring

Piaget's Cognitive Developmental Theory:

- Child s active, acts upon environment
- Children as curious, inquisitive, seek problems to solve
- Structure: All aspects of real world are structured entities
- Cognitive structures: mental units that represent reality
- Adaptation: process by which cognitive structures are applied to and are modified by experiences
 - Assimilation: uses existing cognitive structure to interpret an experience
 - Accommodation: Modifies existing structure to conform to new aspect of reality
- Cognitive development as series of qualitative changes
 - Sensori-motor (0-24 months): action oriented, problem solving, develop schemas
 - Preoperational stage (2-6yrs): thought mediated by words/images, symbolic reasoning, can organize mental images of event and objects
 - Concrete Operational (7-11yrs): Logical thinking, reversible
 - Formal Operational (12 and older): consider general propositions to think about hypothetical events

Chapter 5: Perceptual & Physical Development:

Physical Growth in the First 2 Years

- Changes in height and weight: average newborn weights 7.5 pounds and is 20 inches long.
 - In 2 years, grows faster than at any other period. Birth weight doubles by 5 months and triples by 1st birthday
 - Grow in spurts
- Nutrition: Breastfeed or formula but breast milk has some advantages

Development of the Brain

- Proliferation of nerve cells extremely rapid during early prenatal stage
- Nerve cell production stops before birth, structure of brain continues
- Synaptogenesis: development of synapses, far more than needed, after 2nd year, elimination of synapses that are not needed- Pruning
- Plasticity of the human brain
- If experience is more varied, better developed brain

Sensory and Perceptual Development

- Visual Preference Method: presents pairs of stimuli and see which stimulus the infant is looking at and records changes in fixation. Prefer patterned stimuli
- Method of event-related potentials: electrodes are attached to the scalp of an infant to measure changes in activity when changing stimulus
- Habituation-Dishabituation: present stimulus several times until habituate and then introduce change if does not alter then change was not perceived
- High Amplitude Sucking: use special pacifier, if likes stimulus, keeps sucking

Development of Visual Perception

- The eye: light waves enter eyes through the lens and land on retina which transforms visual info into neural impulses, carried by optic nerve
- Fovea: densely packed set of highly sensitive cells that discriminate detail (not mature at birth), visual acuity is low
- Must learn to use ciliary muscles to bend light waves
- Make out objects at 3 months old
- Tracking moving objects in space: at first jerky eye movements, at 3 months: smooth pursuit movements

Object Perception

- Scanning object contours: attracted to the external contours of objects; ignore interior detail
 - Up until 2nd month
- Separating figure from ground- innate ability
- Infants are best able to make out objects that they see frequently and that move in relation to other objects and background
- The Face: most significant/frequent visual image

Depth perception (form 3D dimensions)

- Binocular info: different locations of the 2 eyes (4 months)

- Interpret Kinetic Info: when head moves from side to side, image of a near object moves more rapidly than the image of a more distant object
- Visual Cliff
- Pictorial info: perspective (objects of equal size are judged closer or farther away by their relative size in pic) and superimposition (objects that block out views appear closer)

Auditory Perception

- Ear is well developed weeks before birth
- Fetuses react to sound
- By 6 months of age, highly mature ability to discriminate
- Locating sound sources: newborns can locate sound but declines over next 2 months and comes back at around 4 years old
 - Was a reflex, weakens and then becomes voluntary response
- Young infants can distinguish perception of speech sounds

Taste and Smell

- Can taste soon after birth
- Develops rapidly
- Parents approaches to food has long term effects
- Smell develops rapidly during neonatal period

Developing Motor Control

- Reflex behavior: "wired in" circuit
 - Not controlled by brain's info processing center (cerebral cortex)
 - Controlled by brain stem
- Most reflexes disappear
 - May be related to voluntary counterparts, evolutionary history

Early Spontaneous Movement

- Patterned movements emerge gradually over first 4 months
 - Rhythmical movement stereotypes

Voluntary Control of Movement

- Postural control: holding head steady while moving (2 months); sitting without support (5 months); getting into sitting position (7 months); pulling to stand (7-8 months)
- Locomotion: moving oneself
 - Rolling from supine (back down) to prone (front down)
 - Creeping- stomach on floor (7 months)
 - Crawling- all four limbs
- Manual Control: control of hand, picking up (3-4 months)
 - Use grasping thumbs (5-6 months)
 - Pincer grasp: thumb and single finger (9-10 months)
 - Accuracy of hand placement (3-4 months)
 - Can grasp most small objects between 4-6 months

Motor Control and the Environment

- Poor living conditions slow down development
- Parents should facilitate motor control