Chapter 5 Vocabulary – CD0001

Amygdala

located in the inner brain; emotional learning

Androgens

male hormones

Anorexia nervosa

starving oneself because of a compulsive fear of getting fat; consequences include heat problems, kidney failure, brain/bone damage

At what age do our brains have the most neurons and synapses?

Infancy

Body image

conception of and attitude towards physical appearance; self-esteem predictor

Brain plasticity

a highly plastic cerebral cortex has a high capacity for learning; if a part of the cortex is damaged, other parts can take over the tasks it would have handled

Bulimia nervosa

strict dieting and excessive exercise accompanied by binge eating, often followed by deliberate vomiting and purging with laxatives

Cephalocaudal trend

"head to tail" - the head develops first from the primitive embryonic disk, followed by the lower part of the body

Cerebellum

a structure that aids in balance and control of body movement; automatic functions (breathing)

Cerebral cortex

surrounds brain - walnut, largest brain structure & contains the greatest number of neurons and synapse; last part of brain to stop growing; perception, language, cognition

Corpus callosum

a large bundle of fibers connecting the two cerebral hemispheres --> smooth motor coordination and integration of cog activities (peak at 3-6 years)

Distance curve

plots the average size of a sample of children at each age; shows yearly progress toward maturity

Dominant cerebral hemisphere

capacity of one side of the brain to carry out skilled motor action; reflected by hand preference

epiphyses

special growth centers at the two extreme ends of long bones of the body; cartilage is produced here; disappear after childhood - no more bone length possible

Estrogen

female hormones

Experience - dependent brain growth

occurs throughout our lives - it consists of additional growth and refinement of established brain structures as a result of specific learning experiences that vary widely

Experience-expectant brain growth

depends on ordinary experiences/naturally - opportunities to interact w/ people, hear language and other sounds, see and touch objects, and move about and explore the environment

Glial cells

responsible for myelination; half of brain's volume; multiply rapidly through second year

Growth faltering