Child Development

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Chapter 11

What Is Child Development ?

Overview
- Key terms
- Theoretical perspectives
- Definitions of milestones
- Review of milestones
- Typical and atypical development

Defining Child Development

Development is the characteristic, predictable way that...

Behavior refers to any observable action...

Functionally relevant behaviors are most important in...

The terms *typical* & *atypical* are preferred to *normal* & *abnormal* when describing expected versus unexpected...

Theoretical Perspectives

Neurologic perspectives

Developmental change parallels brain maturation

Plasticity refers to the ability of the nervous system to…

Theoretical Perspectives (*cont'd*)

Biology, maturation, and cognition

Several theories of development are based on an unfolding of internally driven…

Gesell saw genetics & neurology as providing a blueprint for…

Freud & Erikson saw development as the interaction of biological…

Theoretical Perspectives(*cont'd*)

Piaget described cognitive development in terms of a sequence of adaptive responses to the environment based on the processes of…

Modern information processing theory builds on Piaget's original work, drawing especially on analogies to computer processing

Theoretical Perspectives (*cont'd*)

The environment and social context

Several theories of development emphasize the role of the...

Skinner & Watson theories based on behavioral conditioning;

Social learning theory emphasized social modeling & imitation in…

Vygotsky emphasized the role of family, teachers, & peers & introduced the concept of zone of proximal development

Bronfenbrenner's ecological theory of development emphasized the importance of _____to development

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Developmental Milestones

Definition:

Developmental Milestones (*continued*)

Milestones are characterized as belonging to specific functional domains

Commonly described domains include:

1
2
3
4
5
6

Developmental Milestones (*continued*)

Clinically most useful milestones:

1

2

3

4

Developmental Milestones (*continued*)

Limitations and misuses

Some milestones are more precisely defined…

Milestones are essential to the processes of developmental assessment…

Child Development Homes Program

Development and Adaptation

Development is a process of adaptation to the environment

BASIC CONCEPTS IN CHILD DEVELOPMENT

Development and Adaptation (*cont'd*)

Mobility

Key milestone:

Primitive reflexes in the newborn give way to…

Elaboration of motor skills is seen in:

1
2
3
4
5
6
7

Development and Adaptation (*continued*)

Adaptive skills

Fine motor and cognitive (problem-solving) skills for…
Early fine motor skills culminate in the development of the…
Later fine motor skills elaborate on the manipulation of …
Problem-solving skills are based on memory and…
Problem-solving skills are the basis of self-care skills, such as:

1
2
3

▶ Problem-solving skills form the basis of pre-academic skills

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Development and Adaptation (*continued*)

Social skills

Human beings are hyper-social compared to…

Theory of mind is the foundation for human…

Social reciprocity is the basis of communication…

Development and Adaptation (*continued*)

Symbolic thought and language

The ability to learn and use language is …

Critical periods occur in the early development of …

Language development follows a predictable sequence…

Distinguishing Typical and Atypical Development

Atypical development represents a departure from expected development

Delays:

Deviance/divergence:

Many developmental disabilities have a mixture of…

Distinguishing Typical & Atypical Development (*cont'd*)

Developmental surveillance

1
2
3

Distinguishing Typical & Atypical Development (*cont'd*)

Developmental screening:

1. Use of specific, standardized…
2. Recommended at …
3. Designed to identify children at risk…

Distinguishing Typical & Atypical Development (*cont'd*)

Next steps after failed screening:

Early intervention (provision of services to …

Developmental diagnosis (in-depth assessment of…

Summary

- ▶ Development describes a complex process of behavioral change that begins in childhood and continues throughout life
- ▶ Theories of development provide a framework for considering the complexities of the processes of developmental change
- ▶ Developmental milestones provide the basis for assessing child development and identifying children with atypical patterns of development