Psychology Chapter 10 Infancy and Childhood

Essential Question: How did people grow and change throughout the life span?

Developmental Psychology



Study of how people grow and change throughout the life span from conception through infancy, childhood, adolescence, and adulthood until death.



Reasons psychologists study infancy and childhood

- 1. Early <u>childhood</u> experiences affect people as adolescent and adults
- 2. By studying these stages of development, psychologists can learn about <u>developmental</u> problems, what causes them, and how to treat them.

Methods Psychologists use to study the change over time:



Dian Fossey observing mountain gorillas In a longitudinal observation

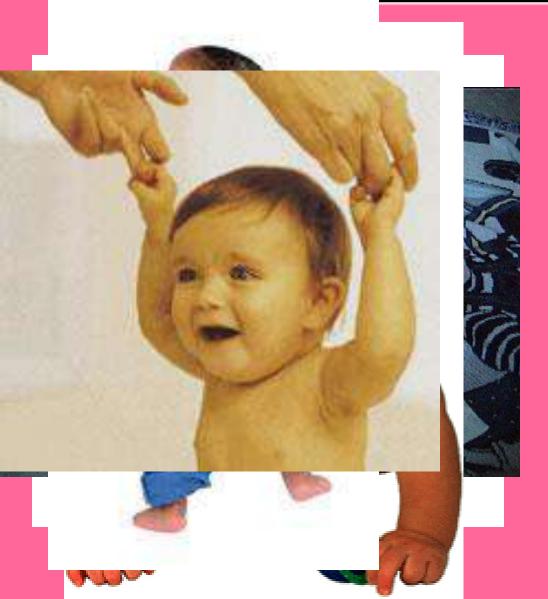
Longitudinal – long series of time

Cross
sectionaldifferent ages,
different people

Developmental psychologists are concerned with 2 general issues:

- Way in which heredity and environmental influences contribute to human development. (<u>Nature v</u> <u>nurture</u>)
- 2. Whether development occurs gradually or in stages (<u>stages v</u> <u>continuity</u>)

Nature vs. Nurture



Maturationautomatic and sequential process of development that results from genetic signals.

Nature vs. Nurture



Critical periodstage or point in development during which a person or animal is best suited to learn a particular skill or behavior pattern.

Stages vs. Continuity

Is development like climbing a set of stairs to reach the top, with distinct levels? (Stages)



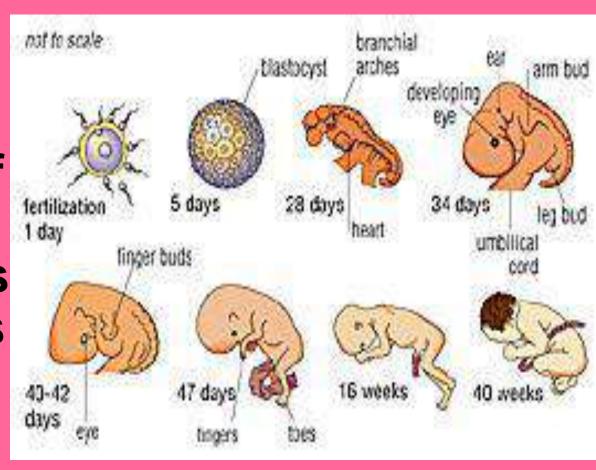
Stages vs. Continuity

Is development like an incline that gradually increases up to the top without levels. (Continuity)



Physical Development

During pregnancy (embryo-fetusbirth), in the first 8 weeks of development the fetus grows 20 billion times in size it was upon conception.





Physical Development



- Infancy is from the ages of Birth to 2 years old
- Babies usually double their birth weight in 5 months, Triple their birth weight in one year and grow approximately 10" in that year.

Childhood- is from the age of 2 to adolescence.

- After 2 years a child will gain 2-3" and 4lbs.
 Each year until adolescence.
- MotorDevelopment



Motor development



Reflexes

 (grasping,
 breathing,
 rooting,
 startle reflex)

Perceptual development (learning)





- 5-10 weeks of age a infant will like complex pattern to look at
- 15-20 weeks
 preference to
 faces
 (nurturing)

Perceptual development (learning)- Ex. Visual Cliff



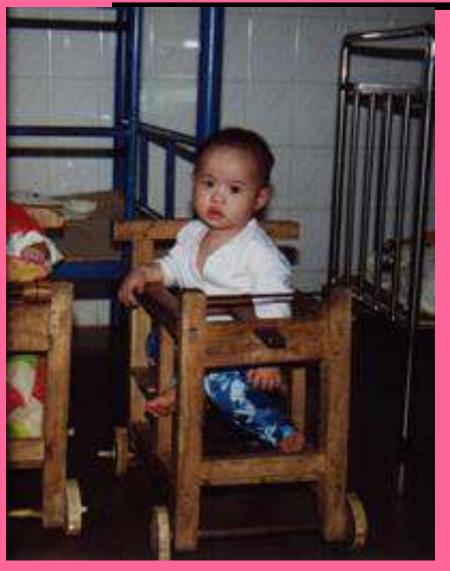
- Up to 9 months, a baby will cross over a glass plate that is over a Visual Cliff, to get to his mother
- By 9 months, the baby has learned, through exploring the world, that drop offs can be painful. They refuse to cross.



Learning to relate to others



Attachmentemotional ties
that form
between
people.



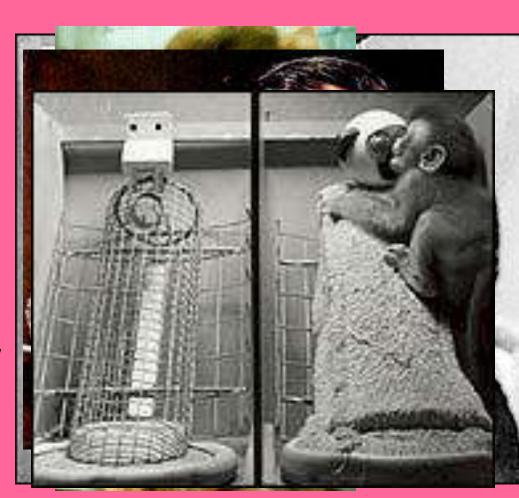
- Development attachmentinfants prefer to held by anyone,
- rather than being alone.

Chinese baby in an orphanage

- 4 mos. Particular attachments
- 6 mos.-12 mos. stronger attachments
- 8 mos. form "<u>stranger</u> anxiety" and <u>separation anxiety</u>
 - fear of being separated from mother.
- 2 factors for attachment to primary caregivers:

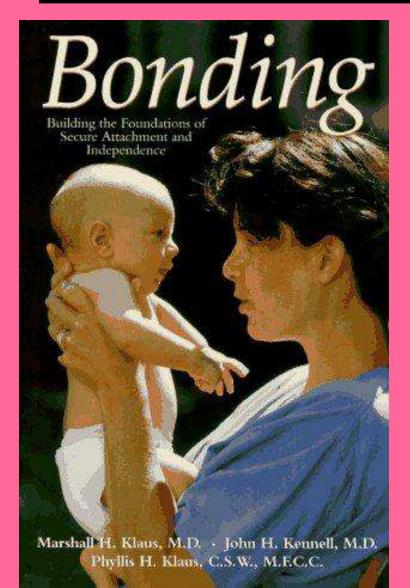
Contact comfortthis is the instinctual need to touch and be touched by something soft. (Such as skin or fur)

Ex. Monkey and fake mothers (p236)



Imprintingimmediate attachments during critical periods. (Such as ducks, first moving object they see)





- Types of attachments
 - -Secure
 - -Insecure



Secure Attachments

- affectionate and reliable caregivers.
- Children that have secure attachments with caregivers get along with parents and teachers.
 - They are happy, friendly, cooperative, and less likely to misbehave.
- They do well in school.



Insecure

 attachment unresponsive
 or unreliable
 caregivers



Styles of Parenting

- Warm-Coldness
- Authoritive
- Authoritarian



Warmth-Coldness

- Warm-smile, happy, hug, kiss children
- Cold-not affectionate
- Strict sets distinct limits
- Permissive give the child the freedom

<u>Authoritative</u> -parents that combine warmth with positive strictness.

Children of authoritative are independent and achievement oriented. Feel better about them selves.

<u>Authoritarian-</u> favoring unquestioning obedience, strict guidelines expect children to follow without question.

Child is less friendly and less spontaneous

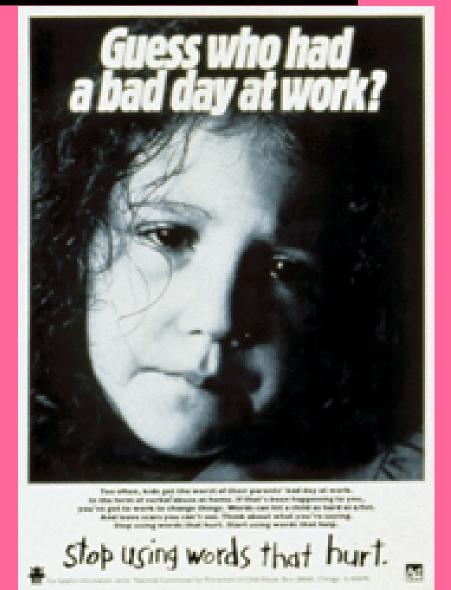
Child Care

- Child abuse and neglect
- Physical abuse- is the beating hitting or kicking of another person that results in bodily injury.
- Neglect- is the failure to give child adequate food, shelter, clothing, emotional support or schooling.
- Neglect is more common and results in more injuries, illnesses, and death.

Reasons why caregivers abuse/neglect;

- 1. Stress (unemployment)
- 2. History of child abuse in one parent's origin
- 3. Acceptance of violence as a way to cope with stress
- 4. Lack of attachment to children
- 5. Substance abuse
- 6. Rigid child rearing attitude.

- Abused children have a higher risk of developing psychological problems.
- Child abuse does run in families, but not all children of abuse become abusers. (imitate what they had experienced)



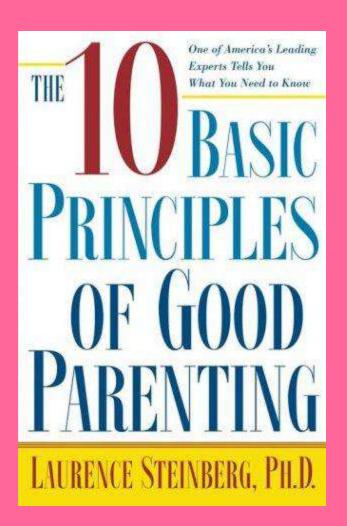


Self Esteem

value or worth
that people
attach to
themselves



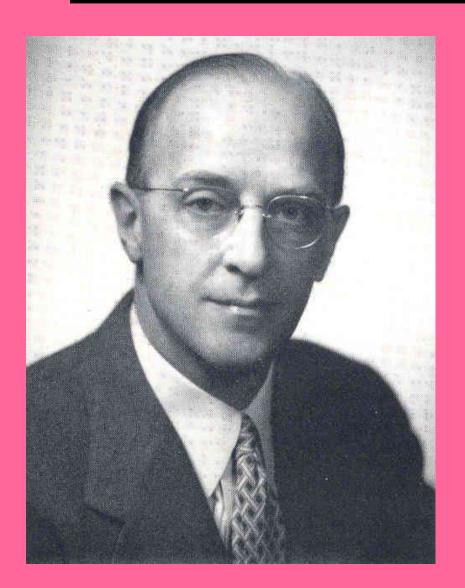
Self-esteem protects people against the stresses and struggles of life. Helps them to overcome these problems.



Influences of Self
 Esteem-

*Secure attachment with caregiver is important (close to parent)

*Authoritative
parenting teaches what
to expect and
appropriate behavior



Carl Roger's two
types
of support parents
can
give their children

1. Unconditional Positive Regard

2. Conditional Positive Regard



Unconditional positive regardlove and accept the child for who they are no matter how they behave. (Develops high self esteem)



Conditional positive regardparent shows their love only when the children behave in certain acceptable ways. (Develops need for approval and a low self-esteem)



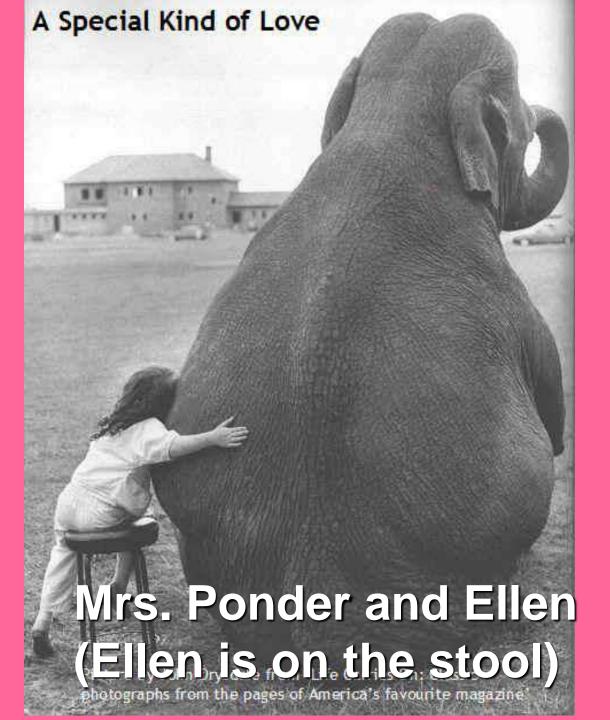
Gender and Self Esteem

By the age of 5-7 year of age children begin to value themselves on a basis of their physical appearance and performance in school. Girls do well in reading and general academic areas.

 Boys do well in math and physical education.

Age and Self Esteem

- Self esteem declines in elementary years to a low point at 12 or 13. Self esteem increases again during adolescence.
- Reason for decline;
 - May see that others do not see them as they perceived themselves
 - Peers comparison.





"At your age, Tommy, a boy's body goes through changes that are not always easy to understand."







