


An Introduction to Human Development

EDS 248
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What is "Development?"




What is a Developmental skill?

1. Gradual
2. Cumulative
3. Permanent
4. Transactional
5. Occurs in an Ecosystem



Small Group Discussion

- Identify a skill (e.g., learning to talk) and according to the just mentioned criteria (i.e., gradual, cumulative, permanent, transactional, & occurs in an ecosystem) discuss how it is “developmental.”
- Be prepared to share your discussion with rest of the class.




Risks to Development

Discuss the following “risks.”

- Doing too much for a child.
- Doing too much to a child.
- Doing too little for a child.

- Address the importance of assess the environment when identifying a student’s learning challenges.




Risk and Resilience

- Environmental risk factors do not affect all children in the same way.
 - Family resources
 - Social resources
 - Financial resources
 - Personal history
 - Individual traits/characteristics




Theories of Development:
What Makes a Good Theory?

- Communicates meaning
 - Can be shared, understood
- Verifiable
 - Can be tested
- Generalizable
 - Can be applied others
- Applied value
 - Guides practice



Key Issues in Human Development


- Is both active and passive.
- Has critical periods.
- Nature (internal) and Nurture (external) factors play a role.



How New Knowledge is Produced:
Research Methods


- Undergraduate
 - Consumer of knowledge
- Masters Level
 - Evaluator of knowledge
- Doctoral Level
 - Producer of knowledge

- All graduate level students must understand the basics of research methods.




The Research Process

- Identify a question
- Review available literature
- Develop hypotheses
- Collect data
- Analyze data
- Interpret results




Types of Research

- Qualitative
 - Describes
 - Uses words
 - Open and general
 - Natural and subjective
- Quantitative
 - Measures
 - Uses numbers
 - Closed and specific
 - Artificial
 - Objective



Specific Methods

- Historical
- Ethnographic
- Descriptive
- Correlational
- Group Comparison
 - Ex Post Facto
 - Experiments
 - Quasi Experiments
- Single Subject



Next Week

- Research what is normal pregnancy, birth, and infancy?
- From independent research write three discussion questions.
- Begin to focus on developmental & health history questionnaire development
 - See the instructor if you would like it to have a special focus, e.g., ADHD, Autism, Dyslexia.
