

Cognitive, Physical, Social and Emotional Development of a Child

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ABSTRACT

Developmental psychology is a relatively new science, but the continued pursuit of its study has led to many conclusions and insights on the development of humans. The study of child development has been particularly investigated, allowing people to realize and facilitate the transformations that occur from infancy through childhood through adolescence.

First, I will examine cognitive development, or the development of mental and motor skills. I will also describe Cognitive development; it is based over in terms of two of the most well known theories on the subject: Jean Piaget's four stages of cognitive development and the information processing theory. The second aspect of child development that is examined is physical development. Physical development starts from the day of birth and advances rapidly. Changes can be seen weekly in infancy and, though the process of physical development slows drastically, development continues into adulthood. The third aspect of development that I will examine is social and emotional development. Humans go from birth, where they only possess four innate emotions, to adolescence, where they face a complicated quest for identity. Although this is an overview of child development, it is important to remember that each theory in child development has its strengths and weaknesses and each theory has been subject to both affirmations and criticisms. Another thing to think about while going through this article is the importance of outside factors on a child's development. For example, children's development is affected by the historical time in which they live, the culture they belong to, any social or demographic changes that take place in their culture, their family situation, and many other factors. Also, while development is explained in this article by age group, these ages do not represent definite marks as to where a child should be at a specific age, and are instead rough guidelines to the typical progression of child development.

Key words: Child Psychology, Child development.