

Miya Kim

PSY 244\_ Unit 1Essay

**Required Question**

The newborn baby has its sequence follow by the cephalocaudal pattern, it refers to the development starts from top to the bottom, the head first and gradually toward it way down. That is, when eyes see an object before they are developing their ability to reach to it. It also acknowledges by the Proximodistal pattern that it develops from the center out-warding toward the body. For example, baby learn to sit before using their arms to reach for toys.

Infant's reaction to their environment from birth, as their innate reflexes for their survival needs, such as the rooting reflexes, sucking reflexes, motor reflexes and may other reflexes. These basic reflexes help babies respond to their environment for adoption and survival. Hence, infant's motor development is to have the gross motor skills before fine motor skills, for they are able to use large muscle as to roll over, sit and later to walk, and that how it later enable the development of fine motor skills for the infant to utilize the small muscle that involving in grasping toys or picking things up. It is to note that infant growth is episodic that it grows in spurts, rather than following a rigid pattern.

It is normal for Infant's weight to drop few ounces for adjusting and adapting the environment outside mother's womb, and may double their weight by around 4 months and triple the weight when reaching the first year of milestones. By their first birthday, they have nearly doubled in height. Growth slows in the second year, but their physical and mental development is gradual and continuous.

The brain also continues to grow at birth, and it rapidly develops in infancy, and continue to develop throughout the life until adolescents. It contains billions of neurons, and it grows extensively, so protecting the baby's head is crucial.

## **Chapter 2**

### ***Questions 2.***

Genotype refers to the genetic makeup or inherited characteristics of an organism. It is a group of genes in DNA responsible for different characteristics of an organism. In other words, genotype tells us which genes a living organism has for a particular trait. For example, people with blue eyes must have the gene for blue eye color in their genotype. In all organisms, including humans, genes passed from parents to children make up the child's genotype. Like fingerprints, no two people except identical twins have the same genotype. It is to note that if the genotype is the code of DNA, then the phenotype is the manifestation of the code of DNA.

In other words, if genotype is what a person's heredity from their parents over all, the phenotype is the observable and presentable characteristic and traits we can see from that person. Such as his height, hair and skin color and so on. Dominant genes can be expressed through a person's phenotypic appearance, while recessive genes are phenotypically suppressed. For example, both parent with curly hair has the curl hair as their dominant gene, while they both have the recess gene of straight hair that is not expressed to their trait, they may still be able to pass that straight hair gene to their child. As a result, children may have straight hair when their recessive gene is not override by the dominant gene.

#### *Questions 4.*

There are various abnormalities in chromosomes and genes:

-Down Syndrome: Causes of Chromosomal Abnormalities The average person has 46 chromosomes, half of which come from both parents. Down syndrome is the result of an abnormal split of chromosome 21 and occurs in approximately one in 700 births. It can cause physical and intellectual disabilities. People with Down syndrome have some recognizable appearances, such as a flattened face and nose, a shortened neck, a thickened tongue, and shorter legs and arms.

-Turner Syndrome: It is caused by congenital loss of sex chromosomes, that Generally, normal women have 44 somatic chromosomes and 2 X chromosomes, while patients with Turner's disease lack a whole or part of the X chromosome. Its chance occurs in every 3,000 to 5,000 births and it is a chromosomal disorder that occurs only in females. The most common features are short stature and disability in ovarian, often accompanied by heart and kidney dysfunction, aortic stenosis, hypothyroidism, diabetes, and osteoporosis. Individual with Turner syndrome may have difficulty in high comprehension subjects, such as math, but their language development, verbal expression and intellectual have no much different from other people.

However, when in puberty, most people with Turner Syndrome do not develop sexual characteristics, and have problems with development, growth, and lack of hormones throughout their lives.

-Sickle-cell anemia: Gene-related abnormalities caused by blood disorders limit the delivery of oxygen to cells in the body. Normally, people's blood shape looks as the round disk, which can easily and smoothly moving through the blood vessel to the other areas of the body to provide

oxygen. While people with sickle cell disease, they have their blood shape as sickle, and sticky that these irregularly shaped red blood cells have difficulty moving through smaller blood vessels that it flows slow, preventing oxygen from reaching parts of the body and causing the damage of tissues and organs to suffer from lack of oxygen. It should be noted that this abnormality occurs more frequently in African-Americans. It shows that one in 10 African-Americans are carriers, and one in 400 African-American babies is affected by this genetic disorder.

### **Chapter 3**

#### ***Questions 17.***

There are many debates in regard to breastfeeding and bottle-feeding. For the first year of babies, the cons of breastfeeding is slightly more than bottle-feeding. Breast feeding provide a benefits to both the infant and the mothers. It contains more immunity properties to the infant, the kinship increasing bond, more sanitized, and is easier to digest. Hence, it promotes mother's recovery ovarian after birth, and reduce the rate of breast cancer. However, the cons will be that, it is the reality of the lifestyle have made it hard to be available all time to breastfeed the baby, Many mothers may have to go to work during the day. Moreover, it is the case that not all the mother has the adequate breast milk, and it may be at risk if the mother has AIDs as it would pass the virus to the infant.

The Con of bottle-feeding is that it gives an opportunity for the father to feed the baby, and gives more flexibility to the alternated of the feeders. In the case of especial nutritional needs, formula may provide more fortified nutrition for that need. It can also be a great supplement for mother with insufficient breast milk or when it is not available. Hence, preventing to pass the virus from the mother to the baby, bottle-feeding can be a helpful alternative tool for feeding. However,

bottle-feeding can be interrelate for infants' stomach compare to breast milk that it may cause some digestive issue.

It seems clear that in general conditions, breast milk has more benefit to the bottle feeding. In my point of view, it is variable depending on the mother's situation. Whether to breastfeeding to bottle-feeding, the care and attentive affection can play crucial role on child care. I see that the breastfeeding for the first few weeks to months, later on, with an alternating of both breastfeeding and bottle-feeding would provide more flexibility to the parents. As feeding can be a job for both mother and father to anticipate.

### ***Questions 20.***

The development of motor skills during infancy is the work of both perception and action. The Fine motor skill is developed after the gross motor skills as the development sequence of a child's body is usually from head to toe, from the center of the body to the edge.

That is, the gross motor skill refers to the utilizing of the large muscles that infant develops the large muscle in about the first year to sit on their own, crawling, turning over, swing their arms, walking and running. The sequence of development of gross motor skills as lift their head, roll over, sit independently, stand with support, walk with support and stand alone to walk well. It is to note that experiences in the process of developing the baby learn from the environment and its fasciate their development of motor skills. The development of gross movements includes the coordination of the whole body muscle group which affects the child's sense of balance and body coordination, and is even the basis for the future development of fine motor skills

When the development of the gross motor is well accomplished by around the first year, the fine motor skill is gradually developing in its detail. The fine motor skill is the use of the small muscle that enable the baby to use their fingers to pick things up, grasps, using spoon or button up shirt and drawing that doing action requires fine motor skills.

It is important to know that both gross and fine motor skills can be exercised as the caregiver providing the opportunity for infant to explore and facilitate activity involving perception stimulus to motivate infant to act and move.

### ***Questions 22.***

Sensation is the reflection of the individual receive directly from the sensory organs of the stimulus from the environment, while perception is the recognition of the attributes of that stimulus. People combine various senses to produce an overall understanding of the subjects, which is the perception.

That is, when we see a thing, our various organs begin to recognize it and get multiple senses, and we combine these multiple senses and then recognize them to produce perception. As our eyes, ears, and skin as the sensation to sense and detect the surroundings, and with all these informations that we percieve with our sensory receptors, our brain would try to make sense, understand and interpret of it in accordance with our experiences and learned memories. For example, if there is a flower in front of you, your eyes see its shape, and your nose smells its odor, thus producing many different aspects of sensation. Then, we perceive (judge) that it is a flower through our own experience and knowledge.

We perceive first, then interpret it as our perception, and research has found that perception is the motivator for action and reaction. That is, the sensation and perception play the important role in

the development of growth since birth. Therefore, many developmentalists focus on a number of issues and their relevance to sensation and perception. As the links in-between are what many researches are interested in founding out in order to provide the solution for the problems of the development.

## **Chapter 4**

### ***Questions 48.***

For many centuries in the many countries, it is the traditional mentality, that mother has been considered the main caregiver for the infant, while the father as the bread waiver to the family as the financial earning and support. As the society change, there are increasing number of father staying home as the main caregiver to the infant. There are. Many studies has shown that the more father involve in the activity and caring of the child, the more benefit it is to the development of the child. That is, the attentiveness and sensitivity that both parent in the child care can promote the positive outcome of children development in overall. Mothers with the instinct as a mother can be more sentimental toward taking the care of the baby, and better with the house and nurturance work, that they might cuddle with more engaging affectionately, while father may be more involved with physical activity, such as rough play and more playful.

However, It is all depending individually and variable from people to people. Father can be sensitive than the mother, and mother can be more active than the father. It is the matter of the fact that how father and mother to work cooperatively in taking care of the infant. Parenting is a joint responsibility of both father and the mother, and it is needed to implement in the division of work in housework and childcare.

***Questions 49.***

I believe that different people have different parenting styles of taking care of children, and it has the different effects on the development of children in varied aspects. I may choose to stay longer amount of time with my child before he/she turning the first year, proving a good quality of childcare by involving in varied activities, increasing proper amount of stimulus and most importantly providing them with warmth and affection. When children are older in around 3 year old, I would consider to send the child to child care.

I will be taking the reference as the NICHD SECCYD study from the textbook, It has provided me with a measurement in considering what factors to look into in making the decision of the types of child care, and most importantly, what matters the most in the positivity of the development of a child. Other factors including the quality of care, the amount of child care, and the influence of family and parenting. The age, the temperament of the child and the situation of the family are also will be included as the factors to how to provide the care for the child.

I see that good quality day-care environment can foster child's development cognitively and learning how to interact with their peers.

I learned that the family is playing the vital role and a key factor in the development of the child care, that whether to stay home with the children or place them in day care, the parent is responsible in shaping their children mental growth.