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Human Growth and Development

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Unit 1 Essay

Name and explain at least three examples of abnormalities in genes and chromosomes.

Down Syndrome is one of the most common genetically linked causes of intellectual disability. It occurs when there is an abnormality in the individual's cell division causing them to have an extra chromosome. The most common sex-linked chromosome abnormality is Klinefelter syndrome when a male has an extra X chromosome. This can cause the male to have undeveloped testes, unusually enlarged breasts and are tall in height. Sickle-cell anemia is a gene-linked abnormality when the red blood cell has a disk-like shape. This impairs the red blood cells ability to properly carry oxygen to the body's other cells.

What is infertility? What causes infertility? Explain what an infertile couple can do to have a baby.

Infertility is the inability to conceive a child after twelve months of regular intercourse. Infertility caused by the woman can be due to her not ovulating, production of abnormal ova, her fallopian tubes being blocked or a condition that prevents implantation of the embryo into the uterus. Infertility caused by the man may be due to the lack of sperm being produced, lack of sperm mobility or blocked passageways. It is possible for couples to receive surgery or hormone based drugs such as In Vitro Fertilization to try and correct causes of infertility.

Do an internet search on “fetal psychology” or “prenatal psychology” or “birth psychology”.

Report back on your results. What do you make of the results?

Fetal psychology is described as the psychological and psychophysical effects and implications of the earliest experiences of the individual, before birth as well as during the after birth. The prenatal development period is about 9 months and is divided into three periods being germinal period, embryonic period and fetal period. We commonly describe these as the three trimesters of pregnancy. When a baby is born while still in the prenatal development period, between the 24 and 37 weeks, that is when they are considered premature.

Outline brain development during infancy, and speculate how brain development relates to behavioral and psychological development during this period of life

Even before babies are born their brains contain tens of billions of neurons and establish basic wiring patterns between them. After the child is born theirand brain develops at rapid speeds. Within their first years their synaptic density dramatically increases with it doubling in size just in the first year and being eighty percent fully grown by the age of three. In their first year they develop mostly in areas of sound, language including speech and grammar. The neurons themselves also change significantly by growing of myelin sheath to speed up neurotransmission as well as new dendrites growing to increase connections between neurons.

Discuss the pros and cons of breast- versus bottle-feeding.

The benefits for a child breat feeding include appropriate weight gain leading to reduced risk of child and adult obesity, fewer gastrointestinal and respiratory infections, lower blood pressure and a stronger immune system. There are also benefits to breastfeeding for the mother

including reduced chances of breast cancer, ovarian cancer, cardiovascular problems and disease. Breastfeeding also creates a bond between the child and their mother. Breastfeeding is not in the interest of the baby if the mother has an infectious disease that can be passed through the milk, has physical difficulties or is taking a drug that can harm the child.

Describe the general patterns in the development of infant motor capabilities during the first year.

All babies progress at their own pace but these are about where the child might be at certain periods of their first year. Newborn infants cannot control their own posture but by one month should be able to lift their head. Next they begin to learn to use their arms and lay on their stomach with their heads up by the time they are four months. From five to six months they are rolling over and beginning to use legs for support. Next they should be sitting on their own for eight months. At ten months they should be able to pull themselves to a stand and stay standing without support. After 12 months is when babies start to form the basis of walking.

Explain Erikson's concept of trust versus mistrust. Give a hypothetical situation of a parent–infant interaction that leads to the infant developing trust and an example in which the infant would develop mistrust.

Erik Erikson's concept is that infants learn trust when they are cared for in a consistently nurturant manner. If the infant is not well fed and kept warm on a consistent basis a sense of mistrust is likely to develop. I feel as though instances such as these are more typical than most people realize. I have witnessed a child that has gone through both experiences in two different homes. When she was a young child her mother wouldn't bath her or change her during the week that she was at her house. On the other hand while at her father's house he would

imminently clean her and make sure she was taken care of at least for the weekend that he had her. As the child grew up and the pattern stayed the same she grew to trust her father and like the environment of his home more than her mothers home.

Indicate and explain the individual differences in attachment and the relationship of early attachment to later social interactions.

The ethnological perspective of John Bowlby's conceptualization of attachment is separated into four phases that are made up by different phases of the child's first two years. The first phase is between birth and two months where the child begins to attach to people but are unable to differentiate family members from strangers. The second phase from two to seven months the child creates a bond with the primary caregiver, typically their mother, and becomes familiar with certain people. In the third phase, from seven to twenty-four months, the child seeks for and wants to constantly be around those they are familiar with. This most likely leads to the child getting upset when they are with an unrecognized person. In the fourth phase that is from twenty-four months and on the child is able to understand others emotions, create goals and create their own social group and personality.