

Beatriz Pinguelo

Professor Stephen Maret

PSY 244

31 January 2023

Unit 1 Essay

Required Question:

There are many significant physical and psychological changes that occur in infancy which can include physical changes, brain development changes, motor and gross skills development, development of their reflexes, and their learning skills. Infants also have a change in their health that can be very significant. Every week, month, and year in an infant's life is different and includes different types of changes in their development. The first year of an infant's life is very crucial and is where their physical, cognitive, emotional, social, language, sensory and motor skills development grow and change drastically. A fun fact about an infant's first four weeks of life is actually called the neonatal period which I never heard of before. During an infant's first year of life it's a constant change when it comes to their sleep and alertness but also it's important to remember that each infant is different and they all go through different paces.

Chapter 2

1. The relationship between genes, chromosomes, and DNA go hand in hand together and is necessary for life. Each of us humans have something called a nucleus and it contains something called a chromosome which are threadlike structures. This threadlike structure is made up of deoxyribonucleic acid or also known as DNA. The DNA comes in an

interesting shape which is like a spiral staircase. This spiral staircase contains genetic information which is also known as the genes of the DNA. The genes help cells to reproduce themselves and to assemble proteins. A fun fact about genes is that each one has its own special place on a specific chromosome. This is why the relationship between genes, chromosomes, and DNA is so important because without one there wouldn't be the others.

4. The three examples of abnormalities in genes and chromosomes that I have chosen are Down syndrome, Klinefelter syndrome, and Fragile X syndrome. Down syndrome is a very interesting abnormality for me because I personally know someone who has it and it is so fascinating to understand and learn more about. Down syndrome is when someone has an extra chromosome which can cause mild to severe intellectual disabilities and also physical abnormalities. The treatment for Down syndrome can include surgery, early intervention, infant stimulation, and also special learning programs. The second abnormality I picked is Klinefelter syndrome which is actually one I have heard of before but never understood what it was until reading this chapter. Klinefelter syndrome is when someone has an extra X chromosome and it can cause physical abnormalities. The treatment for Klinefelter syndrome can include hormone therapy. The last abnormality that I picked was Fragile X syndrome which is one I have never heard of before reading this chapter. Fragile X syndrome is when someone has an abnormality in the X chromosome and this can cause intellectual and learning disabilities and also a short attention span. The treatment for fragile X syndrome is special education and speech language therapy.

6. Infertility is when after 12 months of regular intercourse without contraception is not able to conceive a child. About 10-15 percent of couples in the US experience infertility which I feel

like it is much more common now unfortunately. The cause of infertility can be on the woman, man, or even both. Usually when the cause of infertility is from the woman it could be that she is producing abnormal ova; she may not be ovulating; her Fallopian tubes may be blocked; or she can have a condition that keeps implantation of the embryo into the uterus. Usually when a man is the cause it could be that he is producing less sperm; the lack of mobility in the sperm; or he could even have a blocked passageway. Thankfully there are some procedures that can be done in hopes to help with infertility such as surgery or even hormone based drugs. The biggest infertility procedure is IVF which is the egg and sperm being combined in a lab dish. If the eggs are fertilized, this egg can then be transferred into the woman's uterus.

Chapter 3

32. Language is basically a method that we humans use to communicate. Language uses words and even sometimes symbols. We can use language by speaking but we can also use language to write as well. For language there are basically rules and certain grammar that we need to follow in order to use language correctly. The concept of infinite generativity is that it focuses on the infinite amount of the sentences by using a limited or restricted number of words and rules. By knowing this we can see that language can really help us to create sentences that show an idea, belief, etc. we all need language and I know that each day we will learn more and more about the importance of language in our lives.

34. I love learning about the milestones in the development of language in infants. It is also helpful for me to know and understand because then I know what to look at for when I have a child. Before we look at the milestones it is important for us all to understand that each child

goes at their own pace and that they need to learn the sounds before learning how to speak. At ages 1-3 months old this is when infants usually start to cry and make some little “coo” sounds. At the ages of 4-6 months is when infants start to laugh, scream/squeal. Crying, etc. At ages 6-9 months is when infants usually start to mimic tones that they hear throughout the day. At ages 18 months to 2 years old is when they start to speak a lot of words and also start to complete sentences that are not too long. From ages to 2-5 years old they can start to recognize a lot of objects and things they see on a normal basis. After the age of 5 is when the child starts to speak in full clear sentences and increase the amount of their words and vocabulary.

Chapter 4

49. If I was a parent that could choose whether to stay home or place my children in daycare I would most definitely choose to stay home. The biggest reason I would choose to stay home is because of safety reasons and I would feel safer with my children at home with me. Another big reason that I would choose to stay home with my child is because I can focus on them and only them through all their milestones and help achieve our goals for them. The only bad thing about staying at home is that it doesn't help a child's social skills if they do not interact with any other children and also adults. To conclude I would probably stay at home with my child until at least their first year or year and a half and then put them into a daycare in order for their social skills to grow.