

Jasmine Grullon

Dr. [Stephen Maret](#)

PSY242 Prenatal

31 January 2023

### Introduction & Frank Lake

Pre and Peri-Natal Psychology: An Introduction Part 1 by Thomas R. Verny MD, D.Psych,  
DHL, FRCPC

- The goal of prenatal psychology is to clarify every facet of early human development (genetics, neurobiology, psychology). This is an integrated holistic and longitudinal contextual theory and practice. An unborn child's growth is influenced by what the mother eats, drinks, breathes in, experiences, stress, feels, and thinks.
- Influential time is when in utero.
- Prenatal and perinatal psychology holds that life doesn't end at conception. the perinatal experiences of women. "There is no switch for life".
- Between the intellect and the body, there is no distinction. It has been expanded to encompass the child. By means of hormones and the bloodstream, the baby experiences everything she does and vice versa.
- Between nature and nurture there is learning (genes and experiences). It's not either/or. Because of those things, we become who we become and become who we are.
- Brain arranges itself as a result of prenatal and postnatal sensitivity. The brain is mostly built through experience.

## Chapter 1 Maret

1) Langeworth's study continued the belief that fetuses could not receive neural messages from sense receptors. However, he included fully functional myelination is not needed for sensory functioning. Yet, according to DeMause, the incorrect claim made by Langeworth regarding "incomplete myelination" continues to be used to deny the ability of the fetus and the newborn to feel pain in many areas of medicine, from the use of aborted fetuses as subjects in painful medical experiments to the denial of anesthesia during circumcision and surgery of the newborn (DeMause, 1982, p. 253).

2) In early western thought, there were already theories on fetal behavior, psychology, and material/environmental influences. Democritus and Epicurus took the lead in believing that the embryo ate and drank by way of mouth. Alcmaeon had a similar belief that the fetus was fed by the whole body but consumed it by sucking it and consumed it as a sponge. Alcmaeon and Epicurus asserted the maternal influence on the fetus to the point of guiding their will and imagination. Hippocrates' theory suggests that the mother nourishes the baby through blood flow to the embryo and the umbilical cord through fetal respiration. Aristotle's conclusion through his examination of different animals followed Western thinkers more. He concluded that the embryo formulates sensation not after birth but rather during pregnancy. His work also helped him better understand fetal nutrition, genetics, enzyme action, and embryology.

3) This section shows that despite advances, the discoveries were still speculation. However, Susruta took the lead on the theory that children are predetermined. He assigned each parent their part of a generic contribution. The father's claims were "stable and firm components," physical, while the mothers were "soft components," mainly inner body parts. Susruta's responsibility confirmed the understanding that physiological, psychological, and

fetoplacental units were separated. His research goes more in-depth on the formation of significant limbs and organs, thus causing a state of consciousness of surroundings and longing for senses that immerse in the mother's desires. Denying those desires can cause cognitive defects, paralysis, lameness, blindness, etc. However, Caraka's theory differentiates the contributions between the mother and father regarding genetic responsibility. Lastly, Caraka does well in how his theory "that the fetus could be destroyed, deformed, or suffer psychologically due to physical or emotional disturbances of the mother" highlights the depth of the fetus' dependency on the mother in more detail.

4) Before the 16th century, the text shows that the publications, statements, drawings, and illustrations were just "speculations regarding the existence of a fetal psychology." Only then was the preformation theory, a view that was believed that because the parent already had an embryological life form in miniature, development consisted only of expansion and not creation. Later on, Plato, Aeschylus, and others assumed that was accurate. Around the 17th century, the advancement of technology, such as the microscope, allowed for the sperm to be seen following up then the ovarian follicles. This divided the theory into "ovist," who believed that the fetus was in the ovum, and the "animalist," who thought it resided in the sperm. In the 18th century, John Locke's writing suggested that the ability to form ideas may be characteristic of fetal life, but Jean described it as a "witless tadpole." Spallanzani made an application at this point that demonstrated the need for both ovum and sperm for conception. Later, in 1990, Driesch showed that fertilized eggs could develop into complete embryos.

### **Chapter 2 Maret**

7) One research evidence Frank Lake used to develop the material-fetal distress was the LSD research. He worked full time with alcoholics but to no avail they tried other method in which giving LSD to those patients. This lasted about two years and by sitting with them for 4 to six

hours, the results showed effectiveness in de-repress memories of the patients. In the reading that looked like repressed infantile memories. Them falling to floor crying, in fetal position and at the breast of their mothers.

9) I selected an article written by Kendra Cherry, an MS writer and educational consultant specializing in assisting students with their psychology coursework. The report focuses on the stages of prenatal development, even though the word search was fetal psychology. The article explains that child development is during infancy but during the prenatal period, which she acknowledges is the foundation for psychological growth. The focus was on the three primary phases of prenatal development. The first two weeks following conception are known as the germinal stage, followed by the embryonic phase from the third to the eighth week, and the fetal period lasts from the ninth week until delivery.

#### Citation

Cherry, Kendra. "How a Baby Develops during the Prenatal Period." Verywell Mind, Verywell Mind, 1 June 2020, <https://www.verywellmind.com/stages-of-prenatal-development-2795073>.