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Unit 2 Essays

Human Growth and Development

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1. Some unfortunate factors that contribute to toddlers' risk of illness and death are; accidents (which are regarded as the leading cause of death), congenital malformations, malignant neoplasms and homicide. Aside from accidents such as drowning, cancer is also regarded as a leading cause of death in children in America. The socioeconomic conditions of the child can impact the child's risk of illness. Those who are living below the poverty line are generally not getting their nutritional needs met. These children are often hungry and malnourished, which compromises their immune systems. Children being raised in low-income homes generally do not receive annual check-ups and doctor visits due to the lack of quality healthcare benefits. This can lead to another risk factor for children in these conditions; the transmission of HIV/AIDS from the mother to the child.
2. Short term memory is the ability to retain information for thirty seconds without requiring the use of rehearsal (or the repetition of information.) An example of short-term memory would be remembering what you ate for breakfast yesterday morning. Another example of short term memory would be the ability to locate where you parked your car in the mall parking lot after you've shopped for a couple of hours. Short term memory can be fueled through repetition. Rehearsing in your mind where you parked your car, or a friend's phone number aid the ability to remember these things. In children, short term memory changes throughout development because their ability to rehearse information

improves with age. The speed in which children are able to process information makes a difference in their short-term memory as well. As they get older, the rate in which children are able to process information does speed up.

3. Child-centered kindergarten is an approach to learning that lets the children decide what they will learn as well as *how* they will learn it. When teachers are designing their curriculum, instead of drawing from materials put together by the state, they will instead observe the children at play and compile lesson plans based on the children's budding interests. By this design the children will ultimately learn the things that they *desire* to learn. The child-centered kindergarten approach allows children to learn at their own pace, being as there is no standardized daily classroom routine. Being as the children decide what they are learning, the lessons may lead to a deeper sense of understanding for the children. For example, the children in the class may come into class on Monday and be acting out scenes from the New Black Panther movie. This could lead to a week in which they learn about African traditions, African animals and possibly eat African themed foods. I feel that the child-centered kindergarten approach is developmentally appropriate. I think this approach encourages creativity in children. It allows them to tap into their own thought process, which promotes free thinking. This approach seems to help the child develop healthy self esteem by enforcing the idea that their voices matter. This approach seems to promote engagement from the children.
4. The four types of parenting styles are permissive parenting, authoritarian parenting, neglectful parenting and authoritative parenting. Permissive parenting can be seen in parents who indulge the emotional needs of their children without enforcing boundaries and limitations (as safeguards). The permissive parents take a more relaxed approach

with their children. For example, a permissive parent may allow their child to go out of state with a friend despite the fact that it is a school night. Permissive parenting prioritizes meeting their child's wants over their best interest. This parenting style can create an impulsive adult who has difficulty regulating self-control. Children of permissive parents often end up with substance abuse issues, obesity and the inability to control their emotions. Authoritarian parenting consists of parents imposing high expectations on their children while offering very little acknowledgement of the children's progress. Authoritarian parents have many staunch rules in place. Despite how meaningless the rules may be, authoritarian parents will make sure that they are being carried out to reinforce the notion that they are in total control of the child. When the child does not (adequately) comply with the rules, the punishments are severe.

Authoritarian parents do not prioritize the emotional needs of the child. They also do not display an interest in having a relationship with the child. This can sometimes lead to outright emotional neglect on behalf of the parents. Children of authoritarian parents tend to grow up and become unhappy, codependent, obedient, meek, emotionally delayed, shy and with low self-esteem. Some characteristics of a neglectful parent are; often times suffering from depression and have experienced abuse themselves, absent in raising their child, do not establish a boundary or standard. Children of neglectful parents often times grow up suffering with mental health issues such as suicidal tendencies. These children also may be prone to substance misuse. The last parenting style is authoritative parenting.

Authoritative parenting is defined by parents who establish boundaries with their children. Unlike authoritarian parents who set standards for the sake of control, authoritarian parents use rules and standards to bring out the greatness within their

children. Within this parenting style, there is a healthy amount of communication between the parent and child about why things are the way they are. Authoritative parents are direct, while still being supportive and loving. Children of authoritative parents become independent, healthy communicators, form secure attachments, have healthy social skills and self-esteem. This parenting style seems to yield the best results.

5. A mother working out of the home effects the child's social development in several ways. While there are some clear disadvantages of this, there are also some advantages worth noting as well. One positive impact that working mothers have on children's social development is that they form independence. When a mother works outside of the home, teaching children how to maintain upkeep in the home, and hold themselves accountable to do homework is prioritized. This creates a sense of self sufficiency in the child. Another positive impact that working mothers have on the social development of their children is it gives mom a break which allows her to be present emotionally. When a mother is able to be tuned in and attentive to the needs of their child, the child receives more nurture and learning. Some of the cons, though, include mom being absent from witnessing certain developmental milestones, the child's attachment style being compromised, and the child learning ideologies from the tv/internet as opposed to gaining values taught by the mother.
6. Playing fulfills both developmental and educational goals and functions in various ways. A huge part of school and work success is the ability to have healthy social skills. Through play, children learn how to interact with the world around them. Often times, playing is done in a group. This dynamic exposes children to the various diverse personality types. While playing, they learn the different ways to interact with their peers.

They also begin to understand concepts like sharing, working together and the effectiveness of communicating in order to achieve goals. Playing also requires a high level of imagination. The use of imagination sparks creativity. Another developmental function that play fulfills is the use of critical thinking skills. When the result of play is a victory or executing a vision (such as assembling a 2 story sand castle), children may tap into their critical thinking abilities. Play often educates children on various topics such as what objects are, what their functioning is, cultural differences, foods, personality types, etc. Parents may be doing a great job in ensuring their child is educated. However, when playing is when most discoveries are made for children. A large component of play is fun. When children are enjoying, they are more prone to engage with what it is that they are interacting with, which helps them to absorb more information.

7. When children are in early childhood, they do not possess the ability to look at everything broadly. For example, they may have had three packs of Oreos and still express the desire for more. They may be screaming and crying for more Oreos. As a parent, you may say “too many Oreos are not healthy for you.” Instead of processing how and why more Oreos are not in their best interest, they will simply process the fact that they are not getting what they want. Once they grow older, though, they may make the conscious choice (unprompted) to eat Oreos in moderation because they understand why it isn’t in their best interest. The same logic applies to what they watch on television.

Overconsumption of television is exposing developing minds to an array of things. Not all of which they can truly understand. They may see ads of people on the beach drinking Michelob Ultra and looking so happy. That could prompt them to go into the refrigerator and try one that’s in there. Children may also hear certain insults being spewed. Without

full awareness of how words can hurt, they may simply focus on the fact that what they heard made everyone in the television laugh, so it must be funny. This logic could prompt them to go to school the next day, and call their classmate a foul name, unaware of the consequences that are inevitable. Television could also be distracting for children.

Watching their favorite shows could steal their attention away from their homework and even healthy physical outdoor activities. Television, though, could be a great learning tool for developing minds. For example, shows about Nature could be informative to children. Also, shows geared toward educational purposes can be helpful as well.

Television also exposes children to a world outside of their community. That could be inspirational for them, which is great. Ultimately, I think it is best if when a child watches television, it is done in moderation and is supervised. I also think it's important for parents to explain certain topics that a child may be exposed to when watching television. Having this healthy dialogue can afford the parents the opportunity to create meaning as opposed to letting the world do it.

8. Some of the significant physiological and physical changes that occur in early childhood are vast. During early childhood, the average child grows 2 1/2 inches in height, and will gain 5 to 7 pounds annually. Once children reach preschool age, though, the rate in which their height and weight grows slows down compared to how rapid it was during infancy. At this stage, girls are smaller and lighter than boys (which will continue throughout puberty.) Another physical change during preschool years is the significant growth in the trunks of both boys and girls' bodies. Body fat will decrease, and children will begin to appear lighter. African American children are regarded as generally taller than white children. During early childhood, children's brains are developing as well. The brain does

not grow as rapidly as it did during the infancy stage. At ages 3 through 6, rapid growth is taking place in the frontal lobes (prefrontal cortex.) This gives children the ability to plan, organize and maintain focus on tasks. The development of the brain (at this stage) is heavily influenced by factors like parenting styles, and socioeconomic status. Children born into low income homes have delays in the maturation of the frontal and temporal lobe. Fine motor skills are developed at this stage, Children at ages 2 through 7 enter into the preoperational stage which gives children the ability to navigate the world through words, images, and drawings. The preoperational stage is where children also gain the ability to conceptualize things through reason.