Chapter 5

2. Myelination is the process of forming a protective fatty layer, called myelin, around the axons of nerve cells. Myelination begins in utero and continues into childhood and beyond. This process increases the speed and efficiency of nerve impulses and is a key factor in the development of the nervous system. Myelination also plays a role in brain growth of the white matter.

3. Overall, understanding the major milestones in motor development in early childhood is an important tool for supporting a child's cognitive, physical and social development. Motor development refers to the learning and refinement of physical skills, such as movement, coordination and dexterity during early childhood. Some childhood milestones include:

- Rolling over
- Sitting
- Crawling
- Standing
- Walking
- Running
- Throwing

Teachers and parents can use the information derived from the assessment of these milestones in several ways:

- Assessment by tracking motor development to identify delays or concerns.
- Encouragement by offering support in motor skills development.

- Safety by understanding the milestones to make informed decisions about the safety of the child's environment and behave accordingly.
- Learning Opportunities-to establish a basis for creating opportunities to encourage and improve motor skills.

5. Jean Piaget developed a theory of cognitive development that explains how childr3en construct knowledge and understanding about the world around them. In this theory he introduced the concept of "operations." This term refers to the mental processes used to control and change information. Operations are the building blocks of more complicated thought processes and are divided into two main groups: concrete operations and formal operations. Concrete operations refer to the mental processes used to manipulate physical objects such as weight, size and shape are used to understand their properties. Whereas formal operations refer to the mental process used to manipulate abstract concepts such as mathematical equations and scientific reasoning. As these stages build upon each other cognitive skills such as perception, memory and language form helping to create a stable and coherent understanding of the world. Preoperational thought differs from sensorimotor thought in the former is limited to the child's self-centered perspective and the inability to understand the properties of objects form a more abstract and logical point of view.

11. Short-term memory refers to the temporary storage of information in the mind usually for immediate use such as for a current task or a thought process. In young children short-term memory capacity is very limited and continues to develop and improve with age. As children grow older their short-term memory capacity increases and they are able to hold onto more complex information for longer periods of time.

Chapter 6

16. Erickson's concept of Initiative versus Guilt highlights the complex and interrelated psychological processes that take place during early childhood when a child starts to think for themselves and takes the initiative to act on their own. Sometimes these actions can cause a since of guilt because it may be in direct conflict with a caregiver or person in authority's instruction or expectation of behavior. Or the behavior could conflict with the social norms of their culture or religion. Children must learn to balance their feelings if initiative with feelings of guilt in order to maintain a positive sense of self and develop their capacity for self-directed actions.

18. Moral development provide a framework for understanding right and wrong. This framework helps children in developing the capacity to make moral judgments and behave in amorally appropriate way which is acceptable within the culture they live in. Some of the key components of moral development include:

- Moral Empathy: the ability to understand and respond to the emotional state of others and recognize the impact of one's behavior on others.

- Moral Reasoning: The capacity to reflect on ethical problems or situations and make an informed decision on what is the right or wrong way to proceed.

- Moral Identity: A set of beliefs or values that guide one's actions and decision making.

- Moral Motivation: The desire to do what is right and to avoid behavior that is harmful or wrong.

- Moral Character: Moral traits and qualities that one possesses such as fairness, honesty or compassion.

Contemporary theorists conceptualize moral developmental a dynamic and interconnected process that involves many components and is shaped by a variety of individual, social, cultural and in some cases religious factors. It is therefore crucial to the cognitive, social and emotional state of a growing child.

19. Summarize what we know about biological, social, and cognitive influences on gender development. Clarify whether these influences are independent of each other, or whether they interact with each other. Give examples that support your conclusion.

20. Compare and contrast any two theories of gender development. Indicate whether these theories contradict each other, or whether an eclectic use of them would enhance our understanding of gender development.

24. Pros:

- Increased financial stability can decrease stressors at home and with peers.
- Mother can become a positive role model for child.
- More opportunities to engage in extracurricular activities.
- An increased sense of independence and responsibility for the child

Cons:

- Child might suffer feelings or abandonment or separation anxiety.
- Decreased family time and potential lack of energy for interactions.
- Stress over childcare expenses
- Bond between parent and child may suffer.

26. Play is an essential component of child development that supports developmental and educational goals and functions. It also supports social development for young children as well. It can help children develop physically through the building of motor skills, hand eye coordination and physical dexterity. Children can explore their environment by experimenting with new ideas and problem solving through play. Socially they can earn to interact with others and learn cooperation, as well as speech improvement. Furthermore, they learn to express their feelings and develop empathy as well as compassion for others. They can express their individuality, develop self- esteem and build their confidence.