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MFT 603B: Individual and Family Development

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Chapter Presentation: Week 5

1.   On pages 222-227 of "Grief Counseling and Grief Therapy" by J. William Worden, the author discusses the death of a child. What I found interesting is how much pressure is placed on the surviving child. The parents bestow qualities of the deceased child onto the surviving child as a way to make the deceased child live on through their alive child. It is interesting that parents who lose a child may sometimes need another one to fill it as with the surviving child or by even having a new child with the intent on replacing the old one. These are important things to keep in mind for a grieving family so that the surviving child is also cared for and not felt responsible to live up to their parent's expectations of filling their void.

2.   Chapter 7 of "Journey Across the Life Span" by F.A. Davis describes toddlerhood and the different stages of their development. Something I did not know or realize was that a toddler's visual clearness or acuity changes over time. A toddler will only have 20/20 vision towards the end of the toddlerhood stage. I never knew children's eyes had to strengthen and was apart of development. But just like every other muscle in the body, the child must adapt even their eyes to their new surroundings.

3.   I had learned about separation anxiety disorder in psychopathology however, to hear about it in the developmental stage of toddlers in chapter 7 of "Journey Across the Life Span" was interesting in itself. I had the impression, that separation anxiety was

actually negative and unhealthy among children but this book actually tells us that it is in fact normal for toddlers to only tolerate short periods away from their parents. This is helpful to know especially when dealing in family therapy and a child presents separation anxiety. It will be important if the child is a toddler to determine whether it is normal as apart of development or if it in fact is a disorder and there is some underlying problem for it.