An Introduction to Lifespan Human Development

Developmental Processes

The Lifespan Perspective

Contextual Influences

- 1. normative age-graded influences
- 2. normative history-graded influences
- 3. nonnormative life events
### Periods of Development

- **Prenatal**: Conception to Birth
- **Newborn**: Birth to 1 month
- **Infant**: 1 month to 1 year
- **Toddler**: 1 to 2 years
- **Preschooler**: 2 to 6
- **School-age**: 6 to 12
- **Adolescent**: 12 to 18
- **Adulthood**: 18 years and older (??)

### Childhood

- **Early Adulthood**

### Middle Adulthood
- Begins: 35 - 45 years -- Ends: 60s

### Late Adulthood
- Begins: 60s - 70s Ends: death

### Historical Foundations

**Changing Perceptions and Philosophies**
Childrearing in Medieval Europe (Aries’ research, 1962)

18th Century Europe
• Had no legal rights or protection.

18th Century
• Orphanages
  – The Hospital of Innocents (Florence, Italy)
    – 1500 babies between 1755-1773
    – 2/3 died before the age of 1.

19th Century
• Child Labor
  – Economic value.
    • Used in British coal mines
    • Used in American factories, cotton mills
19th Century

- American Orphanages
  - St Mary’s Asylum for Widows, Foundlings and Infants (Buffalo, New York)
    - 1862-1875  2114 children
    - ½ died within a year of arrival

19th Century

- United States
  - More than ¼ of children born between 1850-1900 died before the age of 5.

Early 20th Century

- Henry Chaplin, a New York Physician
  - Surveyed 10 foundling homes across the country.

Early 20th Century

- Doctors recognized that they were fighting microscopic pathogens
  - Still didn’t fully understand how those invisible infections spread.
  - Logical response:

20th Century

- The influence of John Watson (Behaviorist)
  - “When you are tempted to pet your child remember that mother love is a dangerous instrument”

1928 best seller, The Psychological Care of the Child and Infant
20th Century

- Medicine reinforced psychology, psychology supported medicine.

- 1931 Brenneman
  - Chicago hospital
    - "nurses pets"

- World War II
  - In London many parents sent their children away to stay with volunteers in the countryside.

The Industrialized World

- "child-centered" with a concern for the rights of children

Children Today: The Developing World

- High infant mortality
  - 8 million children under 5 die each year from pneumonia, measles, tetanus, whopping cough.

  - 13 million, if you include starvation (35,000 every day)

Children Today

- Still many instances of abuse, starvation, exploitation and unnecessary mortality

Adolescence
The Invention of Adolescence
• G. Stanley Hall (1844-1924) "adolescence"
• Concept of adolescence: 19th-20th century

Adulthood

Philosophies of Adulthood and Aging
• John Nicolaus Tetens (1736-1807)
  – emphasized individual differences in the life course
  – Emphasized the effect of historical eras on the life course

• Friedrich August Carus (1770-1808)
  – extended Rousseau’s stages of development
  – Childhood
  – Youth
  – Adulthood
  – Senescence.

Basic Issues
Nature and Nurture
Activity and Passivity
Continuity and Discontinuity
Universality and Context-Specificity

Adulthood
• Longer life expectancy
  – 1998
  • 80 White females
  • 75 Black females
  • 75 White males
  • 68 Black males

• Baby boom generation (1946-1964)
  • 2030 20% pop. 65 or older

• During the 20th century
  middle age - a distinct period
  social security, Medicare
  introduced

Philosophies of Childhood
• Thomas Hobbes (1588-1679)
• John Locke (1632-1704)
  • Tabula Rasa

• John Jacques Rousseau (1712-1778)
  Nobel savages
  Maturation
  Stages (infancy, childhood, late childhood and adolescence)
Mid-Twentieth Century Theories

Psychoanalytic Behaviorism and Social Learning

Piaget’s Cognitive Developmental Theory

Psychoanalytic

Freud

Personality is determined by:

- Unconscious motives and drives
- Childhood experiences

Freud

3 components of personality

- Id
- Ego
- Superego

Freud

During psychosexual development, different parts of the body are the focus of pleasure:

- Oral stage
- Anal stage
- Phallic stage
  - (Oedipus Complex, Electra Complex)
- Latency stage
- Genital stage
Erikson’s Psychosocial theory

- Refined and expanded Freud’s theory of stages.

Erikson’s Psychosocial Stages
- Trust vs. Mistrust
- Autonomy vs. Shame & Doubt
- Initiative vs. Guilt
- Industry vs. Inferiority
- Identity vs. Inferiority
- Intimacy vs. Isolation
- Generativity vs. Self-absorption
- Integrity vs. Despair

Behaviorism

Skinner
- Behavior is influenced by its consequences (reinforcers and punishers)

Social Learning Theory

Albert Bandura
- Human beings are cognitive beings who actively process information that they observe in their environment

Social Learning Theory: Bandura
- Based on operant conditioning
- Cognitive Emphasis: Observational Learning
  - BoBo doll studies
  - Model praised or punished
  - Children learned to imitate rewarded model
  - Vicarious reinforcement

The Cognitive-Developmental Perspective
- Development reflects children’s efforts to understand the world
  - Jean Piaget’s Stages of Cognitive Development
  - Information-processing theory:
Piaget's Cognitive Developmental Theory

- Intelligent behavior helps organisms adapt to their environment

Cognitive-Developmental Theory: Piaget
- Intelligence = Ability to adapt to environment
- Constructivism: Understanding based on experience
- Interaction of biology and environment leads to each stage
  - Sensorimotor (age 0-2)
  - Preoperational (age 2-7)
  - Concrete operations (age 7-11)
  - Formal operations (age 12+)

Information Processing Theory

- Uses the computer as analogy for human information processing.

Atkinson & Shiffren’s Information Processing Model

- Sensory Memory
- Short-term Memory
- Long-term Memory

The Contextual Perspective

- Development is determined by immediate and more distant environments, which typically influence each other
  - Lev Vygotsky
    - Urie Bronfenbrenner believes that the developing child is embedded in a series of complex and interactive systems
• Bronfenbrenner’s ecological approach

• Development must be studied within social contexts