

Child Development Theories(2)

objectives

To know child development theories. •

To know **Psychoanalytic Child Development Theories.** •

To know **Cognitive Child Development Theories.** •

To know **Behavioral Child Development Theories.** •

To know **Social Child Development Theories.**

Child development that occurs from birth to adulthood was largely ignored throughout much of history. Children were often viewed simply as small versions of adults and little attention was paid to the many advances in cognitive abilities, language usage, and physical growth. Interest in the field of child development finally began to emerge early in the 20th-century, but it tended to focus on abnormal behavior.

An understanding of child development is •
essential, allowing us to understand the
cognitive, emotional, physical, social and
educational growth that children go through
from birth and into early adulthood.

Psychoanalytic Child Development Theories

Sigmund Freud •

The theories proposed by Sigmund Freud stressed the importance of childhood events and experiences, but almost exclusively focused on mental disorders rather than normal functioning. •

According to Freud, child development is described as a series of 'psychosexual stages.' In "Three Essays on Sexuality" , Freud outlined these stages as oral, anal, phallic, latency and genital. Each stage involves the satisfaction of a libidinal desire and can later play a role in adult personality. If a child does not successfully complete a stage, Freud suggested that he or she would develop a fixation that would later influence adult personality and behavior. •

Erik Erikson •

Erikson proposed a stage theory of development, but his theory encompassed development throughout the entire human lifespan. Erikson believed that each stage of development was focused on overcoming a conflict. For example, the primary conflict during the adolescent period involves establishing a sense of personal identity. Success or failure in dealing with the conflicts at each stage can impact overall functioning. During the adolescent stage, for example, failure to develop an identity results in role confusion. •

Cognitive Child Development Theories

Piaget suggested that children think • differently than adults and proposed a stage theory of cognitive development. He was the first to note that children play an active role in gaining knowledge of the world. Accordingly children can be thought of as "little scientists" who actively construct their knowledge and understanding of the world.

Behavioral Child Development Theories

They focus on how environmental interaction influences behavior. These theories deal only with observable behaviors. Development is considered a reaction to rewards, punishments, stimuli and reinforcement. This theory differs considerably from other child development theories because it gives no consideration to internal thoughts or feelings. Instead, it focuses purely on how experience shapes who we are. •

Social Child Development Theories

John Bowlby •

Bowlby believed that early relationships with caregivers play a major role in child development and continue to influence social relationships throughout life. •

Albert Bandura •

Bandura proposed what is known as social •
learning theory. According to this theory of
child development, children learn new
behaviors from observing other people. Unlike
behavioral theories, Bandura believed that
external reinforcement was not the only way
that people learned new things.

Instead, intrinsic reinforcements such as a •
sense of pride, satisfaction and
accomplishment could also lead to learning.
By observing the actions of others, including
parents and peers, children can develop new
skills and acquire new information.