

DEVELOPMENT IN INFANCY

Child psychology has emphasized to a great extent the importance of infancy. Freud, Adler etc. have given a very significant role to this stage of development. Chief characteristics of this stage can be described in the following manner -

1. **Rapidity in physical growth**-This stage is of tremendous importance from the point of view of physical growth. Average height varies from 17 to 21 inches, average weight varies from 3 to 16 pounds and head is big at the time of birth. After birth upto 2 years or so, weight increases to about 25 pounds, head becomes smaller and reduces in proportion to the body. Hands and jaws also develop, bones and muscles develop and child starts holding articles, standing walking and letter running. In this stage brain grows rapidly. Sensory organ function more effectively. Internal organs also develop rapidly.
2. **Rapidity in mental processes** - in this stage rapid development takes place in mental processes, ie, language, memory, thinking, reasoning, concentration, perception, interests and problem solving According to piaget , in the infancy stage child uses his reflexes Gradually, he co-ordinates his simple perceptual and motor responses into meaningful pictures.
3. **Rapidity in learning** - Learning occupies a very important place in infancy . According to Gassel, in the first 6years child learns double than the 12 years. Child learns many important and significant things quickly
4. **Imagination**-This stage is full of imagination. In this stage child is exposed to limited environment, he extends it to an imaginary world in which day dreaming, fairy tales, make believe and fantasy play an important role. Infants imaginary power is very powerful, ie he makes a stick as horse, plays with a wheel imagining a train etc. Sometimes he copies the action of actors of TV programmes.
5. **Tendency of repetition**-There is a special tendency of repeating words, sentences or activities in this stage. When he repeats any thing, he becomes happy.
6. **Dependence on others** - In this child depends on his parents and other family member for their each and every need Food, clothes, cleanliness sleep health care for other necessities . He depends on parents or other elder. For needs he feels very comfortable with his mother. He needs love, care, security and belongingness from his parents.
7. **Attitude of learning by imitation** - In this stage child learns quickly by imitation, Child observes the behaviour and activities of parents, brothers, sisters and other members of his family and imitates .
8. **Instinctive behaviour** - In this stage child's behaviour is based on instincts. When he feels hunger, keep any thing near by him in his mouth, when someone takes his toys or any other thing He starts crying and shouting .
9. **Expression of emotions**-Emotions are frequently intense but temporary in infancy period. These are expressed directly as well as indirectly by crying, biting, thumb sucking and infant speech. According to J.B. Watson---- emotions of fear, anger and love can be identified even in infancy.

Bridgs has identified emotional development during infancy the following table

Emotional development during infancy according to Bridges.

Emotional development during infancy according to Bridges						
Age	2 years	18 months	12 months	6 months	3 months	At the time of birth
Emotion	Excitement	Excitement	Excitement	Excitement	Excitement	Excitement
	Joy	Joy	Joy	Joy	Joy	
	Affliction	Affliction	Affliction	Affliction	Affliction	
	Anger	Anger	Anger	Anger		
	Disgust	Disgust	Disgust	Disgust		
	Fear	Fear	Fear	Fear		
	Affection	Affection	Affection			
	Splendour	Splendour	Splendour			
Jealously	Jealously					

10. **Feeling of self love**-Infant loves himself. He never accepts any other child in the lap of his parents, feels jealous. He wants each and everything for himself He wants love and affection of his parents, brothers and sisters for himself only, he does not want to share. He feels affliction when new born brother or sister sleeps with his mother, he becomes sad.
11. **Lack of moral feeling**-In this stage moral sense does not develop. He is not able to understand good-bad, do's-don'ts, proper-improper. He does that work in which he feels happiness. He don't want to do any work which is painful to him.
12. **Development of social feeling** - By the age of 3. a child shows desire to play with other children. At 4. children talk a lot, call names, tattle and fight. By 5 year, strong friendships develop and fighting diminishes.

Children begin to explore their environment independently. Hide and seek is a common game. Girls and boys both play together except for in those societies which discourage mixing boys and girls even in this stage of development. In the later infancy children help other children.
13. **Learning perceptual experience** - Due to lack of mental maturity during this period children learn with the help of perception. Kindergarten and montessory system use various types of audio-visual aids to teach the children. Children observe these things and learn with the help of sensory organs.
14. **. Sex instinct**-According to Freud, sexuality is not the characteristic only of the adults. Infants also have sexual desire also. This he termed as 'infantile sexuality'.

According to Freud, the mouth represents the first sex organ for providing pleasure to the child. The beginning is made with the pleasure received from the mother's nipple or the milk bottle. Thereafter, the child drives pleasure by putting anything, candy, a stick, his own thumb etc. into his mouth.