

Lifespan Development

Chapter 6 Psychosocial Development in Infancy

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Psychosocial Development in Infancy (outline/overview)

- Erikson on Early Relationships
- Attachment
- Temperament
- Early emotional development

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Erikson's Theory of Infant Personality

- Derived from Freud's oral stage
- Erikson emphasized quality of caregiver's behavior, not amount of oral stimulation
- Positive resolution
 - Caregiver is prompt and sensitive to baby's needs
 - Trusting infant expects world to be good and explores it confidently

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Erikson's Theory of Infant Personality (con't)

- Negative resolution
 - Caregiver is neglecting or inconsistent
 - Mistrustful baby cannot count on kindness and compassion from others, behavior is characterized by withdrawal
- Autonomy vs. Shame/doubt also addressed during this period

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Attachment


- Theoretical perspectives
 - Psychoanalytic
 - Behavioral
 - Ethological theory
 - Evolutionary context
 - Infants are hard wired with behaviors that keep parents nearby
- Consequences of attachment

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Bowlby's Attachment Phases

- Preattachment (birth to six weeks)
- Attachment-in-the-making (6 weeks to 6-8 months)
 - Infant responds differently to caretaker
- Clearcut attachment
 - Caretaker as secure base
 - Separation anxiety
- Reciprocal relationships (18 months)
 - Importance of reciprocal socialization
 - Development of internal working model


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Temperament

- Various models (Rothbart-Mauro/Chess-Thomas)
- Defined as patterns of emotionality and arousal that are consistent and enduring characteristics (how children behave) (Chess & Thomas model)
 - Activity level Attention Span/Persistence
 - Rhythmicity Intensity of Reaction
 - Distractibility Threshold of Responsiveness
 - Approach/withdrawal Quality of Mood
 - Adaptability
- Shows stability from infancy through adolescence
- Origins
- Reciprocal interactions


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Profiles of temperament (Chess and Thomas)

- Easy babies (40% of infants)
 - Positive disposition
 - Adaptable
- Difficult babies (10%)
 - Negative mood
 - Withdraw in new situations
- Slow-to-warm (15%)
 - Inactive, adapt slowly
 - Generally negative mood
- Other 35%?

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Goodness of fit

- Responsive parenting
- Developmental changes

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