



BRENTWOOD
OPEN LEARNING COLLEGE

Assignment Cover Sheet

Student Name:	Camilla de Coularè de la Fontaine
Student Number:	9624
Course:	Child Psychology
Assignment NO:	1

Marking Criteria:

We expect the learners to write minimum one well expressed point in three lines against each allocated mark. This means one needs to write 15 lines with 5 well expressed points to get high grades for a 5 marks question.

For high grades use examples and illustrations where appropriate.

Please insert your completed assignment (in word format) here:

1. Children progress in their development in a linear sequence, at their own individual pace. That's because every child is **UNIQUE** and they vary in their interests, skills, preferences. Cultural and social contexts influence what a child learns, his personality and attitude.
2. Development describes a child's thinking abilities and social skills according to three characteristics that are **progressive** (a child replaces an old set of learned behaviours with a new set of skills and abilities), **orderly** (it occurs in a sequence, building up the previous one and cannot occur before it) and **long-lasting**. It deals with both quantitative as well as *qualitative changes*, Growth describes a physical increase of a part's size, in both a child's weight or height and in the size of any internal organs. Growth refers in this case, to a *quantities change*, which can be measured.
3. The key periods in human development are mainly four:
 - **Infancy** (birth to 2 y.o.) - The child starts to be totally dependent on the caregiver until he reaches a number of abilities as walking, communicating, running, identification of himself and others and more confident on the surroundings. It is the most rapid period of a child's growth and development.
 - **Childhood** (2 to 12 y.o.) - It is a time of tremendous growth across all areas of development. The dependent new-born grows into a young person who can take care of his own and interact more with others. More independency.
 - **Adolescence** (12-18 y.o.) - It is an age of disorientation and discovery, as physical and psychological changes occur and the main goal is reaching independence and self-identity.

- **Adulthood** it is the longest period in life which has been broken into three periods: **young** (21-35), **middle** (35-65), and **older** (65+). An adult might start supporting himself financially, getting married and even having a family. Emotionally, it is typical to leave behind adolescent conflicts and discover more smoothness and less tension. The health of the young adult may continue despite bad habits such smoking, drinking and lack of exercise.
4. The main areas of an individual's development are:
 - **Physical Development** – It is referred to a measurable, visible changes in his body during his life span.
 - **Motor Development** – It is referred to the growing of control a child has over his body and the acquisition of different levels of skills.
 - **Social Development** – It refers to the child's ability to interact with others, including helping themselves and self-control.
 - **Emotional Development** – It refers to a child's growing ability to regulate and control emotions and to form secure relationships. The emotional climate at home displayed by parents affect a child's emotional development.
 - **Cognitive Development** – it defines a child's ability to think, process information and learn and solve problems.
 - **Language Development** – it is the process children come to understand and communicate language.
 5. A development in one area affects a development in all the others. As a child grows and becomes more competent in cognitive development, for example, reasoning and expressing his thoughts, this will affect his ability to understand feelings and emotions, consequently his social - language development will be connected and developed too.
 6. Cognitive Development refers on how a person perceives, thinks and gains understanding, using its own intelligence, reasoning, language development and memory.
 7. Erikson's Psychosocial stages are:
 - **Stage 1 – Trust vs. Mistrust** (birth to eighteen months) – Feeding is the most important event and "trust" is the relevant feeling on the caregiver when reliable and careful. A lack of this will lead to mistrust.
 - **Stage 2 – Autonomy vs. Shame and Doubt** (2 to 3 years old) - Potty training plays an important role to develop a child's sense of autonomy. Success leads to feelings of autonomy, failure results in feelings of shame and doubt.
 - **Stage 3 – Initiative vs. Guilt** (3 to 5 years) - Exploration is the main event. Success in this stage leads to a sense of purpose. Children who exert too much power experience disapproval, resulting in a sense of guilt.
 - **Stage 4 – Industry vs. Inferiority** (6 to 11 years) - Children need to cope with new social and academic demands. Success leads to a sense of competence, while failure results in feelings of inferiority.
 - **Stage 5 – Identity vs. Confusion** (12 to 18 years) - Teens need to develop a sense of self and personal identity. Success leads to an ability to stay true to yourself, while failure leads to role confusion and a weak sense of self.

8. **"Social Development"** refers to the development of display and identify emotions such as fear, anger, love and so on. Emotions are the first language learnt by a child from his caregivers, before he acquires the language. It is also the area that involves attachment, temperament and how a child acts in social situations, such as greeting people, sharing attention.

Activity 1

I will talk about my children! Giacomo, is 13 years old, he is my first born and he tends to wrap in himself if a problem occurs. He is very sensitive to the others' opinion and he prefers not to show off his thoughts as he needs to be accepted and loved. In social interactions he is gregarious with adolescent, as he needs friends but with adults he becomes introvert and shy. He has lost his father recently, therefor suffering tremendously but does not express his grief in any way. He is striving for independence but he needs psychological support, a lot of care and understanding. I have enrolled him in a support group for children with the same grief, where he can feel free to talk about anything in his mind and share it with others. I have been talking about his father's upcoming death for years, due to his long battle with cancer, to prepare them better. Ginevra is 9 years old, she is very outgoing, an enthusiastic girl, she is always happy! She is sociable but selective, she feels good even alone, as she is very creative inventing many games to play with. She has been like this since her early days, and has a different temperament from her brother. When she finds herself into a stressful situation she faces it with bravery and strength, talking about it and being more informed about a specific matter. She has lost her father too, but she keeps on talking about him, and drawing her lovely dad in many occasions.

Case study

- The problem starts from home, exactly from Dave's mum who is the first guide to be imitated. Usually parents make a big impact on their children and usually what the children do is what they have seen their parents doing. Parents are a child's first teacher and role model.
- Imitative learning plays a crucial role in the development of cognitive and social communication behaviors, such as language, play and joint attention. There is a progressive imitation of higher levels of use of signs, behavior and social skills. The child learns how to behave by seeing how their parents behave and by following their example.
- Dave's teacher can help him to improve his behavior talking with him calmly but firm and explaining that such a bad language is not nice to be said and heard, and setting examples. *Rewarding* will reinforce his changing and *punishment* will also help to feel the consequences of his bad language. Using effective discipline methods will help the child learning self-control.

Student Statement:

By submitting this assignment, I confirm that this is my own work.

Student Signature	<i>Caui llo de Coutare de la Fontaine</i>	Date	<i>16-10-2017</i>
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For Tutor / Assessor Use Only

Total Marks	
Marks Obtained	
Percentage / Grade	