

Understanding Psychological and Developmental Issues in Children

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Introduction

One of the many fields of psychology is child psychology. From prenatal development to puberty, this branch focuses on the mind and actions of adolescents. Child psychology is concerned with a child's mental, emotional, and social development as well as their physical growth.

History and Development

In the past, children were often thought of as miniature versions of adults. Albert Einstein declared that Jean Piaget's discovery that children think differently than adults was "so simple that only a genius could have thought of it."

Experts differ in their responses to some of the bigger questions in child psychology, such as whether early experiences matter more than later ones or whether nature or nurture plays a greater role in development. Since childhood has such a significant impact on the rest of one's life, it's no surprise that it's become a hot subject in psychology, sociology, and education.

Experts concentrate not only on the many factors that affect normal child growth, but also on the different factors that may lead to psychological issues during childhood. Child psychologists are fascinated by self-esteem, education, parenting, social pressures, and a variety of other topics. They want to help children learn and grow in safe and appropriate ways.

Major Contexts in Child Psychology

In order to understand child psychology, we must consider three main contexts.

Cultural Context

The community in which a child grows up imparts a collection of values, traditions, common assumptions, and ways of life that shape his or her growth over time. How children interact with their parents, the type of education they receive, and the type of childcare they receive can all be influenced by culture.

Social Context

Children's thinking, learning, and development are influenced by their relationships with peers and adults. Families, colleges, and peer groups all play a role in the social environment.

Socioeconomic Context

Social class may also have a significant impact on a child's growth. SES (socioeconomic status) is determined by a variety of variables, including how much education an individual has, how much money they make, the work they have, and where they live.

Children raised in households with a high socioeconomic status have more opportunities, while children raised in households with a low socioeconomic status may have less access to health care, good nutrition, and education. Such variables may have a significant effect on a child's psychology.

Keep in mind that these three situations are actively interacting. Although a child's socioeconomic status can limit his or her opportunities, enriching social connections and strong cultural links may help to balance things out.

Essential Influences

From genetic effects on behaviour to societal expectations on growth, child psychology covers a broad range of topics. The following are only a few of the main topics that must be studied in order to understand child psychology: Personality development, Prenatal development, social growth, Sexual development, Cognitive development, Environmental factors, Gender roles, Genetics, Language.

Child psychologists, for example, might look at which child care settings and practices lead to the best psychological outcomes or they might work with kids to help them develop growth mindsets.