

CHLD 102: Child Growth and Development – Discussion Questions

The following questions are suggested for use within an online discussion board. They could also be incorporated into a traditional classroom environment.

Discussion Board – Philosophy of Child Development

For this Discussion, you will be researching important philosophers and theorists who have made significant contributions to the study of child development during the last three centuries. You will then be asked to begin to formulate and post your philosophy or theory of child development (which you will reflect on later in this course).

Before you begin this assignment, read about the theorists in your course text. Reflect on your own ideas, theories, and philosophy with regard to children’s development based on your experiences and the knowledge you have gained from this module.

What is your philosophy of Child Development at this point in your studies? Summarize what the theorist you have chosen most strongly believed in relation to child development and how his philosophy seems to fit your personal philosophy. Why is this theorist more important to you than some of the others? How do you anticipate this theory impacting your career in education?

Discussion Board – Pregnancy Risks

In this discussion you will learn more about prenatal influences and developmental concerns. To prepare for your discussion, read the following resources.

- Chapter 3 on Prenatal Environmental Influences (pages 102-119)
- Visit the Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders page of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2012). Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders. Available from: <http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/fasd/index.html>

Consider the following scenario:

You are at a party with some friends, and one of the women in the party is drinking. You notice that she looks about six months pregnant. One of your friends asks her why she is drinking when she is pregnant and she replies “well, my mom drank the whole pregnancy and I really don't drink that much. There is nothing to worry about”. These are friends and you are put on the spot as the Child Development Specialist and asked what you think. This is your opportunity to be a resource for your friends.

With all of your research materials in mind: Post your thoughts as to the risks involved in drinking during pregnancy, and how you would respond to the young woman's assertion that “there is nothing to worry about.”

Discussion Board – Healthy Emotions

Attachment theory is one of the most important theories of social and emotional development, offering an explanation for how children develop trust and security within

emotional relationships. Post your thoughts as to what parents can do to foster healthy emotional development in the first two years? What strategies can caregivers use to ensure these infants and toddlers attain a securely attached relationship? THEN identify practices that contribute to insecurely attached relationships.

Discussion Board - Transitions

Return to CONNECT Module 2:Transitions: Step 5 and review the ideas that you had for Tamiya's transition. Then return to this forum to share with your classmates. You are to post two meaningful activities to prepare Tamiya and/or her family for transition. Then share another two meaningful activities the receiving teachers can do to help Tamiya and/or her family with the adjustment to the new setting after the transition.

You are not being asked to respond to your classmates' posts but read them so that you do not duplicate their ideas. Of course you can respond if you want to but only the original post will be graded.

Discussion Board - Health Screenings

Health Screenings and the status of immunizations are mandated for children enrolling in child care and must be updated at least every two years. Review Chapter 8 (pages 295 -304) looking for pertinent information. Then post your conclusions about why this is so important for the child and the center. Also address why, when there are so many potential environmental factors, lead screening is isolated out as a specific issue. Also explain why the doctors ask about a history of otitis media. What do you think the regulations should say about the parents that don't want to have this done?

Discussion Board - The Ngeno Story

This video tells the story of the Ngeno family from Heartland Community College's Child Development Lab. The family very graciously shared their family story, challenges and dreams for the future. In this rare opportunity, you will learn their family story in a concise format. In your own classroom, the stories of each of the children and families in your care are likely to be compiled over time through formal and informal conversations..

Watch the video: Heartland Equity and Inclusion Project (HEIP). (2012). *Family Story: NF Video*. Available from <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n4bp-VIN04w>

Watch carefully and take notes using the "**Family Story Analysis Form**" to organize your observations. Replay parts as often as needed.

After viewing the video:

Write a Description of the Family

- Identify the unique characteristics of this family and the impact of culture, social background, language, abilities, communication styles, and values on the development and learning of their children.

Create Your Plan of Action

- Adopt the role of a teacher/ support specialist/ service provider for this family and articulate your plan of action to cultivate a family partnership and to help the family meet THEIR goals. This is the point where you may need to defer to the family's value system and their priorities. Your professional opinions are important but our mission is to tailor our actions to the child's and family's needs as much as possible.

Post on the Discussion Board

1. Your description of the family
2. Your plan of action for how you can cultivate a partnership and support this family.

Discussion Board - Resiliency

The list is long of the social and emotional problems that children might face during their elementary years based on their lives at home or school. Be specific in describing practices and policies that we can implement to help them remain resilient. Include what Erikson's theory warns us about adult's interactions with children during this stage of development.

Discussion Board - Comprehensive Sexuality Education

For this Module's discussion, you will review the SEICUS Public Policy Office's Fact Sheet on Public Support for Comprehensive Sexuality Education and the Guidelines for Comprehensive Sexuality Education.

Sexuality Information and Education Council of the United States (SIECUS) Public Policy Office. (2007). On Our Side: Public Support for Comprehensive Sexuality Education. Available from http://www.siecus.org/data/global/images/public_support.pdf

Sexuality Information and Education Council of the United States (SIECUS), National Guidelines Task Force. (2004). Guidelines for Comprehensive Sexuality Education, 3rd ed. Available from <http://www.siecus.org/data/global/images/guidelines.pdf>

After reviewing each of these documents,

Post your perspective on comprehensive sexuality education including

- (a) when you think sexuality education should begin;
- (b) what should be included in the curriculum, and how this aligns with the recommendations made by SEICUS and
- (c) where you feel sexuality education is most effectively taught.

For each of your responses, be sure to include both your own perspective as well as SEICUS course resources.