Chapter 1 Study Guide

Introduction
• What you should do to become the kind of educator children deserve
• When newborns seem to begin to assimilate information
• The significance of rhythm in babies’ early behaviors
• What gaze coupling is and why it is significant

Genetic Inheritance and Emerging Behaviors
• Examples of genetic qualities that an infant acquires from the parents
• When the child’s speech becomes purposeful and similar to adult speech, and the significance of this transition
• How the child’s natural capacity to categorize, invent, and remember information benefits the child in regard to communication
• The basic differences between human beings and other species, and their significance to the acquisition of language
• Examples of newborn abilities that relate to the acquisition of language
• How the intelligence of an infant compares to the intelligence of an adult in reference to being able to learn something new

Infant Actions Prompt Caregiver Behaviors
• The most important communication factor for the infant, and what makes it so significant
• Why language and the ability to use it is so important

Definitions
• The definition of “language”
• The definition of “communication”
• The differences between language and communication
• Why speech is considered more complex than simple parroting or primitive social functioning

Influences on Development
• What a child’s ability to communicate involves (physically)
• Why mothers often talk to, sing to, and read to their unborn children
• The sound that most attracts and holds an infant’s attention
• How infants begin to acquire their language
• The types of sounds that soothe infants
• The effect of too much sound in the infant’s environment
• The degree to which newborns can hear
• How newborns physically react to sound and why
• What sensory-motor development is and what it involves
• How newborns and infants are viewed (in regard to their ability to learn)
• The role of a child's social and emotional environments in his or her acquisition of language
• The relationship between social dependency and individual survival and growth
• What the affective sphere is and why it is significant
• What the primary goal of parents and caregivers should be, and why
• What attachment is and what it involves
• What the moderation level is and why it is preferred by newborns
• The three states that one can perceive in an older infant’s waking hours
• Why it is important for parents and caregivers to improve their observational skills
• How the parents’ and caregivers’ attitudes and expectations about infants’ awareness and sensory abilities may be predictive of developmental growth
• How ages, stages, and sequences of increased mental capacity are related to language development
• What curiosity is, and why it is important to the acquisition of language
• How cultural and social forces affect the acquisition of language

Theories of Language Emergence
• What the behaviorist/environmentalist/stimulus-response theory is and what it involves
• What the maturational (normative) theory is and what it involves
• What the predetermined/innatist theory is and what it involves
• What the cognitive-transactional/interactionist theory is and what it involves
• What the constructionist theory is and what it involves
• The names of the individuals associated with each of these theories

Other Theories
• The goal common among educators in regard to education and the promotion of development

Research on Infant’s Brain Growth
• What neurolinguistics is
• How the number of synapses in a child’s brain changes as he or she ages
• The disciplines included in cognitive science
• How the brain is affected by environmental conditions
• Why early experiences are especially important from a scientific standpoint
• How technology helps us to better understand early development
• Why the “nature versus nurture” debate is considered outdated
• What is involved in the growth spurt that occurs in the infant’s brain shortly after birth
• Why it is important to stimulate the child’s brain within a specific window of time, and what these special periods are called
• The opinions of those who disagree with the theory of these special periods
• The specific courses of action that brain researchers recommend
Examples of “red flag” behaviors that may be a sign of a learning difficulty
The downside to some adults’ enthusiasm for creating “super babies”
What dual coding is and why it is significant to the acquisition of language
Why the quality and quantity of caregiver nurturing is important to a child’s development
What environmental feedback is and why it is important to a child’s development

Additional Communicative Abilities in Infancy
- How newborns make their needs known
- Newborns’ role in shaping relationships with significant caregivers
- What a proto-conversation is and what it involves
- The two developmental tasks that confront infants, and what each involves
- The types of noises children make, and the significance of each
- The long-term benefit of attending to infant crying promptly
- Some ways in which infants differ from the moment of birth
- The first benefit of communicating that infants learn
- The basic relationship between the mother’s responsiveness and the child’s language competence
- The types of differences in sounds that infants quickly recognize
- Factors that affect whether an infant “locks on” to a conversationalist
- How talking to babies differs from other adult speech
- The types of sounds infants are generally attracted to, and why
- What parentese is, and why it is significant
- How cries relate to the infant’s general health
- Why crying is a significant form of communication for infants
- Different types of cries and how they may be interpreted by adults
- What child development specialists recommend to minimize crying
- Positive aspects of crying
- The types of feelings an infant’s crying can elicit in adults
- The types of emotions that crying expresses as the child nears his first birthday
- What the earliest forms of smiling seem to be tied to
- When true smiling occurs, and what it is usually associated with
- The relationship between the time a baby begins laughing and his or her developmental level
- Common forms of early laughter
- What a responsive mother is and how this relates to an infant’s smiling
- When and how infants first start imitating adults
- What babbling is and why it is significant to the acquisition of language
- When babbling begins and when it generally peaks
- What echolalia is and why it is significant
- How the babbling of deaf children differs from the babbling of children who can hear
• The types of sounds that accompany babbling
• How the environment may promote verbal attempts
• Why physical contact is especially important when an infant babbles
• The relationship between babbling and conversation
• The stages of vocalization as outlined by Stoel-Gammon, and what each involves
• Why attention-sharing is especially important by the last half of the first year
• What adults should do during these attention-sharing moments, and why

Infant Signaling/Signing
• How an infant attempts to communicate physically (as opposed to verbally)
• What signing is and what it involves
• How pointing changes toward the end of the child’s first year
• The relationship between baby signs and brain development
• Why it is important for adults to respond to infant gestures and signals
• The benefits of baby signing

Understanding
• When babies begin to get some idea of the meaning of words, and when they begin to respond to spoken word clues
• When a child’s communication becomes intentional
• The difference between passive and active language
• Ways in which older infants communicate non-verbally

First Words
• The physical development that must take place before true speech can begin
• What a protoword is and why the emergence of protowords is important
• What an infant’s first words generally are
• When monolingual children utter their first words
• The approximate rate at which babies learn words
• The types of sounds most commonly used as children begin to speak
• What a child’s first words signify in his world
• What overextension is (in regard to early speech), how it is expressed, and why it is not a cause for concern
• Examples of words frequently understood between 8 and 12 months of age
• Why children want to learn and use words after they begin to learn the significance of a few words

Toddler Speech
• How toddlers use speech, and why it is important for adults to pay close attention to a toddler’s use of words
• What a holophrase is
• How the rate of learning new words changes in toddlerhood

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Implications for Infant-Center Staff Members

- Why it is important for infant-center staff members to understand the basics of infant speech and their significance
- The type of adult a child needs
- The relationship between an infant’s emotional well-being and his longer-term development
- How well-trained caregivers should react to infants as they experiment with communication, and why
- Suggestions that can be used to promote the infant’s sound-making in infancy
- The benefits of using “singing conversations” and pitch-changing with certain expressions with infants
- Why it is important for adults to view young children as actively engaged in a search for meaning
- Threats to early language development

Baby Games and Explorations

- Why it is beneficial to engage in verbal-physical games with infants
- Examples of games that are appropriate for infants
- The best distance from the infant’s face when playing verbal-physical games
- Why pausing is important when talking with infants
- Examples of classic language and body-action play activities, and what each involves
- Why infants generally enjoy such activities
- The role music plays in the interaction between caregivers and infants in the first year of life
- The two basic types of musical and singing interactions by adults that usually take place
- The difference between tonal babble and rhythmic babble
- How to introduce music and song into infants’ lives
- What spatial-temporal reasoning is, and how it relates to music
- The possible relationship between music and some forms of intelligence

Reading to Infants

- The controversy surrounding the practice of reading to children in the womb
- The benefits of read-alouds to newborns
- How infants between 6 and 12 months will engage in picture book reading with adults, and the related benefits of doing so
- Recommended book reading and book-selecting techniques

Recordings

- How infants respond to recordings
- The effects of DVD and television-watching on infants
Early Experience with Writing Tools
- The age at which children will start to pay attention to the practice of making marks on a surface or paper, and will attempt to do markings themselves
- Recommended materials for these early efforts
- Why close supervision is important for these early efforts

Monitoring Infant Development
- The effect that the mother’s prenatal health, diet, home environment, and other life circumstances can have on the unborn child
- Factors that affect the infant after birth
- The purpose of infant assessment programs
- Why daily monitoring of an infant’s developmental milestones is important
- Why note-taking is important in a busy center, and how those notes are used
- How testing for hearing loss as early as possible is recommended

Implications for Families
- How the family’s attitudes about the infant’s communicating abilities may influence the infant’s progress
- How the family’s expectations and feelings shape their responses to infants
- The factors in the infant’s home that are believed to promote later school success
- How stress affects an infant’s language development
- How living in poverty affects a child’s ability to acquire language
- Despite environmental conditions, the key factors infants require for healthy development
- The commonalities among poor families whose children may escape at-risk status