

PSYCHOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT CHARACTERISTICS IN THE EARLY STAGES OF ONTOGENESIS

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Abstract: This article analyzes the theoretical foundations of psychological development in the early stages of ontogenesis, the biological and social factors influencing the formation of a child's psyche, and the sensory, emotional, social, and cognitive components of early psychological development. The mechanisms of early development of perception, attention, memory, speech, and thinking, as well as the role of sensorimotor experience in psychological growth, are examined. Based on the approaches of Piaget, Vygotsky, and modern neuropsychology, the laws of early childhood psychological development are explored. The article has theoretical and practical significance for applied psychologists, educators, and specialists in developmental psychology.

Keywords: ontogenesis, psychological development, sensorimotor stage, perception, memory, emotional development, speech, socialization, child psychology, neuropsychology

Psychological Development in the Early Stages of Ontogenesis

The early stages of ontogenesis are characterized by the formation of the basic structures of the human psyche, the development of sensory and perceptual systems, early emotional experiences, and the establishment of social relations. During this period, the child's body grows rapidly, the central nervous system becomes more complex, neural connections intensify, and the foundation of cognitive processes is laid. Early childhood is considered the most sensitive stage of psychological development, as experiences during this period strongly influence later stages of personality formation.

Biological factors determine the initial level and potential of psychological development. Brain structures are not fully formed at birth and undergo significant changes in subsequent years. During the first year of life, sensorimotor experience is predominant: the child explores the environment through movement and enriches perception through manipulative activity. According to Piaget's theory of the sensorimotor stage, during this period the child begins to understand the world through active movement and sensory interaction, forming cause-and-effect relationships.

Early sensory development forms the basis of psychological growth. Visual, auditory, tactile,

and vestibular systems enhance the child's ability to adapt to the surrounding environment. In the first months after birth, the child begins to recognize colors, sounds, and facial expressions. Emotional contact is also an inseparable part of psychological development. The emotional bond between mother and child forms a sense of security, social trust, and affective stability. According to Ainsworth's concept of "secure attachment," emotional bonds established during the first years have a direct impact on later social and emotional development.

Cognitive processes develop steadily in the early stages of ontogenesis. By the end of the first year, the child develops the concept of object permanence—that objects that disappear from sight still exist. This is an important milestone in the development of thinking. By the second year, logical connections emerge, and the child demonstrates actions aimed at solving simple problems. The increasing accuracy of perception, concentration of attention, and strengthening of memory contribute to the complexity of the child's activities.

Speech development is also a central component of psychological growth. At the initial stage, the child is able to differentiate sounds, and later begins to reproduce them, learning to use certain phonemes. During the second year, the semantic system develops: the child understands the meaning of words and begins to form simple sentences. Vygotsky regarded speech as a key factor in the development of thinking, emphasizing that through speech, internal intellectual operations develop. With the emergence of speech, the child acquires social experience, engages in active communication, and cognitive development accelerates significantly.

Another important aspect of early psychological development is emotional and social growth. The child's responses to facial expressions, smiling, fear reactions, and emotional regulation develop gradually. From the second year onward, the sense of "self" emerges, and the child begins to see himself as an independent subject, increasing the desire for autonomy. This is the stage when understanding social norms, cooperation with adults, and interpersonal relationships through play activity begin to develop. Play activity serves as a universal tool that activates all components of the psyche, enabling the child to learn social roles, expand imagination, and engage in communication.

Neuropsychological studies show that brain development in early childhood is extremely intensive. During this period, the number of synaptic connections reaches its highest level. The richer the experience, the more effectively the brain develops. Therefore, abundant sensory, motor, speech, and social play activities significantly accelerate psychological development. Conversely, sensory deprivation may lead to developmental delays.

Early childhood forms the foundational base for subsequent stages of personality development. The formation of perception, strengthening of memory and attention, development of speech, establishment of emotional stability, and growth of social skills determine the entire course of psychological development. For this reason, proper communication with the child, creating a stimulating environment, increasing sensory and play experiences, and providing emotional support are critically important.

Conclusion

The early stages of ontogenesis play a decisive role in the formation of the human psyche. During this period, sensory, emotional, cognitive, and social processes develop intensively, laying the foundation for the child's personality and cognitive activity. The integration of biological maturation and social experience ensures full-fledged psychological development. Deep study of early psychological development and the creation of appropriate pedagogical and psychological approaches are crucial for increasing the effectiveness of education and upbringing.

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