

Psy 353 Learning and the Young Child

Schwartz

Unit Objectives

Unit 2: Biological Bases of Development

Students should be able to:

1. Briefly explain what is meant by the following terms:

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|---------------|-------------------------|
| a. epigenesis | d. critical period |
| b. plasticity | e. behavioral genetics |
| c. neuron | f. selective cell death |

2. The concept of ‘epigenesis’ was described in lecture and text as being probabilistic. Explain what this point means, then explain its ramifications for working with children.

3. Explain what is meant by ‘experience expectant processes’.

4. Explain the genetic effects of parents *and* the genetic effects of children on the influence of the rearing environment of the children.

5. Explain the importance of bi-directionality in a discussion of the combined influence of genetic and environmental factors in neurological and brain development of children.

6. Differentiate between, and explain the effects of, passive genotype, evocative genotype and active genotype.

7. Explain the apparent discrepancy between the amount of recovery of cognitive skills following brain injury for specific vs. general skills relative to age of injury.

8. Explain what is meant by ‘cerebral lateralization’. Then, tell what processing differences characterize each cerebral hemisphere.

9. Describe the developmental pattern of growth of neurons. Tell why knowledge of this pattern is relevant to an understanding of children’s development of cognition.