

Youth Issues

Questions Answers



1. What are some differences that distinguish one infant from another?

INFANT TEMPERAMENT

Just like adults, infants tend to differ in temperament, which might play a significant role in the development of their attachment relationships. Several researchers tested the oxytocin levels in about 15 new-borns and results indicated that infants with higher oxytocin level were more likely to need parental care and further showed greater interest in social interaction. Such babies are inclined to find it easier to learn that they have a secure base ground for their growth and development. On the other hand, infants who appear difficult or more overactive in day-to-day stressful situations may eventually require more parental care.

EMOTIONS

Emotions tend to pervade infants' daily lives, which enables them to accomplish their goals because it is the primary medium through which communication is achieved. Infants tend to differ in the depth of emotions, which are expressed by general patterns of excitement and distress. They also differ later in their first year of growth and development in emotional expressions such a surprise, joy, anger, disgust, fear, and sadness. For instance, different infants start smiling at different stages of their development and further become wary of strangers.

ATTACHMENT STYLE

Attachment refers to an enduring emotional tie that infants form to another person. Infants regard the tie as a protective figure, which poses security in their present, but it differs from one child to another. Very young infants can cry only to show distress; they look at the nearest



caregiver, if he or she is near them, then children begin to be attracted to this adult.

2. Discuss social referencing. What are the positive and negative effects?

Social referencing refers to the entire process when infants apply the affective displays portrayed by an adult to regulate their day-to-day behaviour towards the environment, people, objects, and situations. The main role played by social referencing is to expose infants to the world and make them understand the world that surrounds them. During the first quarter of the year in which infants are born, they become capable of assimilating interpersonal communication with situations and objects within the surrounding environment. It enables them to view their guardians as teachers and a great source of knowledge about the immediate environment.

Social referencing, according to several researches, is considered as the cornerstone of emotion, because it tends to broaden and deepen infants' emotional life in general. In addition, social referencing represents one of the most importance milestones of infants' emotional development. Contrary to this, young children may develop certain characters, which are not in line with what the society expects from them. Children at this age may emulate bad behaviour from the surrounding environment, which negatively influences their growth and development.

3. Why is Anisworth's strange situation an important study? What are the implications of this study?

The strange situation is a widely used experimental technique, which is applied to measure infants' attachment level to caregivers. The strange situation is a sequence of staged episodes that further illustrate the strength of children's attachment to a typical mother. As suggested by its name, the strange situation was specifically designed by Anisworth to try to present children with an unusual, but not overwhelmingly scary experience. Several researches have studied what an infant undergoes during the strange situation, and the results lead to different conclusions. Anisworth developed four patterns that an infant or a child develops when they respond to the strange situation, it includes securely attached children, resistant insecure children, avoidant insecure children, and disorganized insecure children.

In the recent past, the results of the strange situation have revealed genuine cultural differences in the way children have been attached to their caregivers or their typical mothers. According to Anisworth's view on the strange situation, the attachment is a general positive tendency that has different forms of expression; it depends on how mothers or caregivers seek to instil independence among their children in the society.

4. Discuss Thomas and Chess NYLS and its importance to temperament. What were some of their temperamental classifications and why might they be important for later development?

In 1956, the New York Longitudinal Study started and continued for several decades thereafter, which is regarded as a classical study into temperament traits and personality types. The study was conducted among the children at their early days in order to determine their temperament traits and personality. The researchers came up with nine basic characteristics, which determine the temperament traits and personality types of an infant. The main role of the 9 identified characteristics was to try to define the behavioural profile and temperament traits of each child or infant.

Behavioural profiling is of great significance, even in infants as early as 2 or 3 months old. After a proper analysis of the 9 individual characteristics, the researchers defined 3 general types of temperament traits that included the difficult children, the easy children, and the slow to warm up children. In conclusion, their ability to develop and behave in a much more acceptable way is greatly determined by caregivers or adults, whereby they try to identify, recognize, and respond to their unique temperament.

5. What is considered the greatest risk to health and well-being of a preschool - age child? What can be done about this?

A child of 3 or 4 years is termed as a pre-scholar, thus it does not matter whether or not the child is attending a pre-school formal institution as he or she is no longer regarded as a toddler. Pre-schoolers are considered different from toddlers in that they tend to develop basic life skills, knowledge, and independence that are essential for their schooling years.

Accidents at home tend to be the greatest risk to the health of toddlers, but with pre-school children, it is extremely important to be alert to the home environment, especially on the streets or the sidewalks.

At the age of 3 to 5 years, children ride bikes and scooters, as a result, they must take safety precautions, such as wearing a helmet. Children require supervision of an older person when they are playing outside. However, when they are inside the house, they are exposed to more dangers such as poisonous substances and electrical appliances.

To keep pre-schooling children from the exposure to dangerous environment, which affects their health, safety measures must be taken. Children need enough space to keep running around several times a day, it gives them an opportunity to physically participate in day-to-day activities rather than sit idle for more than one hour.