

Law and principles of development

A fundamental, primary or general law or ~~the~~ truth from which others are derived.

1/ Early foundations are critical

The attitudes, habits and behaviours established during the early years determine to a large extent how successfully individuals will adjust to life as adults.

Bixon It is unquestionably that the childhood is the period during which the foundations are laid for the complex behaviours and structures that are built for lifetime.

Erikson - Child maintains attitude remains more or less persistent throughout life and colours the perception of the individual about people and situations.

2/ Development is lifelong.

1/ It has 2 separate aspects the development extends across the entire life span, that is there is no assumption that the life course must reach a plateau or decline during childhood and old age.

ii) The development may involve processes which are present during birth but emerge throughout the life span. No age dominates during development.

3) Development follows a definite pattern and is predictable.

It follows a definite and predictable pattern. There are orderly patterns of physical, motor, intellectual and speech development.

It follows a rule that development spreads all over the body from head to toe.

and second is that development starts from centre and goes outwards.

4) Development is multidirectional and multidimensional.

Multidirectional means that there is no single, normal path development should take. It has different types of changes or constancy, some dimension may be increasing or be declining.

Multidimensional means it includes cognitive, biological, and socio-emotional aspects or domains.

It includes all not only one.

5) Development is the product of maturation and learning.
It includes 2 types of functions
a) Phylogenetic functions which are common to human race such as ~~to~~ creeping, ~~sit~~ sitting, walking (Maturation) (training - learning)

(b) Maturation provides the raw material for learning and determine the pattern and sequence of behaviour

b) Ontogenetic functions includes writing, driving, swimming, singing etc. Maturation sets limits, i.e. means individual can't learn until ready.

6) Differentiability There is individual difference in development.
Every person is biologically and genetically different from every other.
Newgarlen Adults are not much more complex than children but they are more different from one another and increasing diff. as they move from youth to adult to old age.

7) Development is Plastic.
Plasticity refers to the within-person ~~plasticity~~ variability which is possible for a particular behaviour or development.

Willis - The reasoning abilities of older adults were improved through retraining. (Plasticity is the potential for change).

8) Development is contextual -
The individual continually responds to and acts on contexts, which include a person's biological makeup, ~~plus~~ physical environment and cognitive processes as well as historical, social and cultural contexts.

- i) Normative age - puberty, menopause
- ii) Normative history - economic status change due to war, terrorist
- iii) Non-normative life events - death of a parent during young age of child, adolescent pregnancy.

9) Development is aided by stimulations.
Premature infants under care given develop faster than the unstimulated premature infants.
- Stimulation helps to ward off physical and mental decline.

10/ Development is affected by cultural changes.

An individual's development is molded to conform to cultural standards and norms, while changes in these standards affect the developmental pattern.

Children brought up in one parent home learn to conform to the culturally approved standard behaviour for such homes.

— Standards that differ in many respects from those of two parent homes.

11/ Hazards in each stage - Each stage is related to certain hazards such as physical, psychological and environment. These hazards inevitably involve adjustment problems.

We should be aware of these hazards because awareness of them make it possible to prevent or to at least alleviate these.