

Assignment #3

Virtual Child

“It’s A Boy!”

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Reflect on the process of raising your virtual child from birth through middle childhood. As you think about your 12 year old son or daughter,

1. What do you think were the key events or experiences that shaped his or her developmental outcomes?

I believe there were many events and experiences that helped to shape Geoffrey's developmental outcomes. When I received the good news of being pregnant I did my very best to provide a healthy, nutritional, and stress free environment for my baby. From the day Geoffrey was born his brain was already genetically wired. It was extremely important to me to ensure that I was supporting and nurturing a healthy brain and body growth process for Geoffrey to aid him understand his world.

Geoffrey's brain developed from sensory experiences he was exposed to and all the social experiences he had with his peers. With Geoffrey having a voice of his own he learnt how to communicate, and he will continue to develop lifelong skills as he gets older.

I know his developmental progression came from the influences of our authoritative parenting style, from caregivers, positive environment experiences, clear communications with his school, teachers, sport coaches, peers, and participating in community and culture events. All these key events, experiences, and attached relationships combined together helped shape Geoffrey into who he is today and for the adult he will become one day.

2. What pathways does your child appear to be on in terms of physical, cognitive, social, emotional and moral development? Choose two of these domains to discuss.

Cognitive: Through the process of Geoffrey's concrete operational stage and the understanding that "mental operations are strategies and rules that make thinking more systematic and powerful" (Kail & Zolner, 2018, p. 303), Geoffrey's cognitive pathway with problem solving, recording observations, and understanding games have rules is rapidly growing. His memory, intelligence, and academic skills are developing with great strength and showing high levels of talent.

Social: Geoffrey's relationship with his peers has improved. Having engaged in rough and tumble play, riding bikes around the neighborhood, and having friends over to his house, Geoffrey has learned that all children see the world differently. He is also very co-operative and willing to share his ideas.

Understanding perspective talking Geoffrey is now more confident with his friends in regard to getting along with them and resolving conflict situations.

3. To what extent could you have predicted these pathways based on what you knew of your child's earlier development?

Cognitive: From an early age Geoffrey showed great interest with language. He enjoyed story time, pointing at pictures in a book, then being engaged in answering questions about the story. He loved to ask questions about his world around him to learn new words. He also enjoyed learning through science experiences to understand how things worked. Geoffrey also loved to find hidden objects.

Social: Geoffrey established secured attachments with his family and caregivers at a young age. It took time for him to feel socially connected with new people and new situations. Geoffrey was a slow-to-warm up child. After observing his surroundings, gradually throughout the preschool years Geoffrey started to interact a lot more with other children.

4. What have you learned about yourself through this experience?

I have learnt through this experience the importance and process of stages, from prenatal and birth, infant and toddler, preschool child, and middle childhood age development is interlinked together through the child's brain, body and behavioral development outcomes. Through nurture and nature, parent involvement, attached relationships, positive role models, and support from family, friends and community, and having an open and flexible mind, that it creates a large enriched environment for a child to flourish in their development. With continuous learning, support, and guidance I've learnt that it can empower a child to have a lifelong span of knowledge throughout their life.

I have learnt as a parent it is important to continue to learn with my child as they grow and develop. To learn from one another by listening, taking turns, to explore, engage in experiments, and to laugh and have fun.

I have noticed that discipline strategies need to be consistent with fair rules and boundaries. When mistakes happen or are made, I have to believe in myself and take the opportunity to gain more knowledge and learn more about the situation. No matter how old you are life is a process of continuous learning!

References

Kail, R. V., & Zolner, T. (2018). *Children: A Chronological Approach* (5th ed.). Don Mills, Ontario: Pearson Canada.