

Child Psychology
A Very Short Introduction
By Usha Goswami

Questions for Thought and Discussion

- How can caretakers bond with infants?
- Why do babies prefer direct eye contact?
- Why is joint attention such an important driver of development?
- How do children form “internal working models” of their value as people?
- What does the ability to imitate teach the infant?
- How do children learn socio-moral behaviour?
- Why do family learning environments play a critical role in development?
- Describe some “constraints on learning”. How do they inform the nature-nurture debate?
- Why are conversations with infants and young children crucial for their learning?
- Why are crawling and walking so important for cognitive development?
- Do infants and toddlers remember events?
- Why is language a “symbolic system” and how does this feature of language impact cognitive development?
- What is a “hostile attribution bias” and why does it matter?
- Why is it cognitively useful to have siblings?
- How does play help children to self-regulate their desires and emotions?
- Is favouring the “in-group” innate or learned?
- How does the “autobiographical self” develop?
- Why is it important to discuss the psychological causes of children’s disputes?
- Do genes completely determine developmental outcomes?
- Which linguistic skills are precursors for reading?
- Why does counting matter for mathematical development?
- Is logical reasoning by children comparable to adult reasoning?
- What are “executive function” skills and why are they important?

Other Books by the Author

- *Wiley-Blackwell Handbook of Childhood Cognitive Development: 2nd Edition*. (Wiley Blackwell 2010)
- *Cognitive Development: The Learning Brain* (Psychology Press, Taylor & Francis 2008)
- *Cognitive Development: Critical Concepts in Psychology* (Routledge 2006)
- *Analogical Reasoning in Children*. Part of series 'Developmental Essays in Psychology' (Lawrence Erlbaum 1992)
- With Bryant, P.E. *Phonological Skills and Learning to Read*. Part of series 'Developmental Essays in Psychology' (Lawrence Erlbaum 1990)

Further Reading

- Hughes, C. *Social Understanding and Social Lives: From Toddlerhood through to the Transition to School*. Hove: Psychology Press. (2011).
- Lillard, A.S. *Montessori: The Science behind the Genius*. New York: Oxford University Press. (2008)
- Murray, L., *The Psychology of Babies: How Relationships Support Development from Birth to Two*. (Constable and Robinson: London 2014)