

Class Objectives

- Ψ What is Developmental psychology?
 - Life Span Perspective?
- Ψ Developmental Processes, Periods, and Issues

Development

A complex pattern of movement and change that begins at conception and continues through the lifespan

Life Span Perspective

Ψ The perspective that development is:

- Multidimensional
- Plastic
- Contextual

Processes in Development

Ψ Biological processes:

- _____

Ψ _____

- Changes in individual's thoughts, intelligence, and language

Ψ Socioemotional Processes

- Changes in the individual's relationships with other people, changes in emotions, and changes in personality

These three processes are intricately interwoven – they shape each other

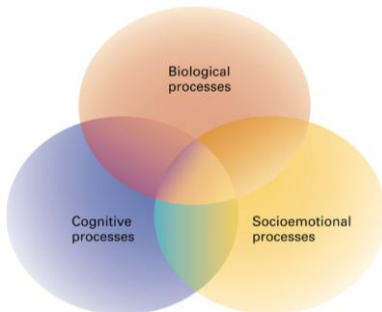


Fig. 1.3

Periods of Development

Prenatal Period	Conception to birth
Infancy	Birth through 18 to 24 months
Early Childhood	2 to 6 years
Middle and Late Childhood	6 to 11 years
Adolescence	10 – 12 years to 18 – 22 years
Early Adulthood	Late teens to early 20s through the 30s
Middle Adulthood	35 – 45 years through the 60s
Late Adulthood	60s to 70s until death

Classifying Development

Ψ **Chronological age**
 - Number of years since birth

Ψ _____
 - Age in terms of biological health

Ψ **Psychological age**
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
 - The social roles and expectations related to a person's age

Nature and Nurture

Ψ **Nature**
 - _____

Ψ **Nurture**
 - _____

Ψ **Examples?**

Developmentalists ask how nature and nurture work together to shape development.

Ψ

- If some experiences occur too early in life they can have serious long-lasting effects.
- If some experiences occur too late in life – it can also have serious long-lasting effects.

Continuity versus Discontinuity

Ψ Continuous

- Children stay on the same path throughout development

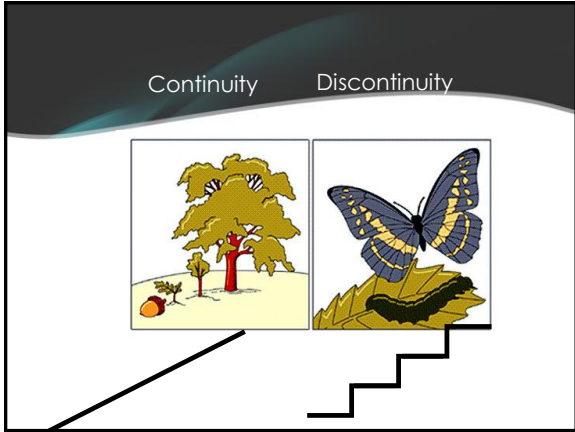
Ψ Discontinuous

- Children can change paths at any point in development

Continuous or Discontinuous – Depends on how you look at it and how often you look

-If you look every day – you are more likely to see development as *continuous*

-If you look every 3 years – you are more likely to see development as *discontinuous*



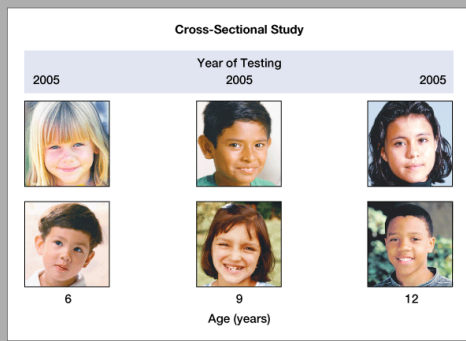
Most life-span development theorists acknowledge that development is not the result of any one of these theories

Designs for Studying Changes Over Time

Examining Development- Research Design

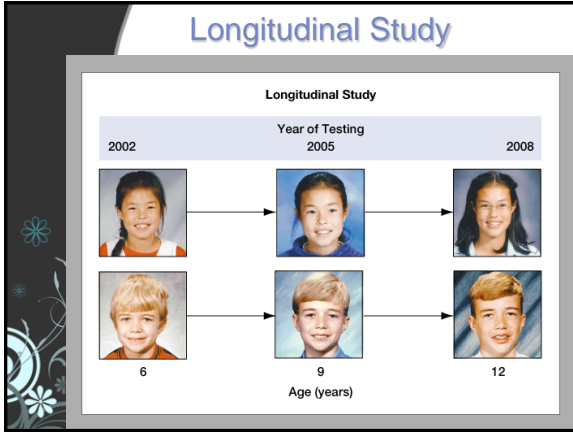
Ψ Cross-Sectional:

Cross-Sectional Study



Examining Development- Research Design

Ψ Longitudinal:



Next Class

Chapter 2

Biological Beginnings

- Prenatal Development
- Birth
