



# BASICS OF CHILD DEVELOPMENT

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## **ABSTRACT**

Watson has defined the child development by describing that the “Child development comes into being from the scientific study of the child.” The study of child development helps to understand the nature of a child so that the effective education and training can be provided to him accordingly. Child development is very important for the modern civilization that will enable to have a capable teenage population in the modern dynamic and challengeable environment. The main types of child development process comprise physical development, emotional and social development, language and speech development, cognitive development and motor skill development which should be considered carefully by the people. Every component of child development process involves various steps which cannot ignored in any situation. Thus, the study of these components will certainly be beneficial to learn the basics of child development.

## **KEY WORDS**

**Child Development, Components of Child Development and ICT**

## **INTRODUCTION**

Child development is the major issue all over the world. Development of a child from his birth plays great role in the development of human life. If development of childhood is managed effectively then it becomes very easy to tackle various hurdles during the all the remaining three stages of human life viz. young age, adult age and old age. The development of initial stage is the path of growth of a child. Child development is very important for the modern civilization that will enable to have a capable teenage population in the modern dynamic and challengeable environment.

## METHODOLOGY

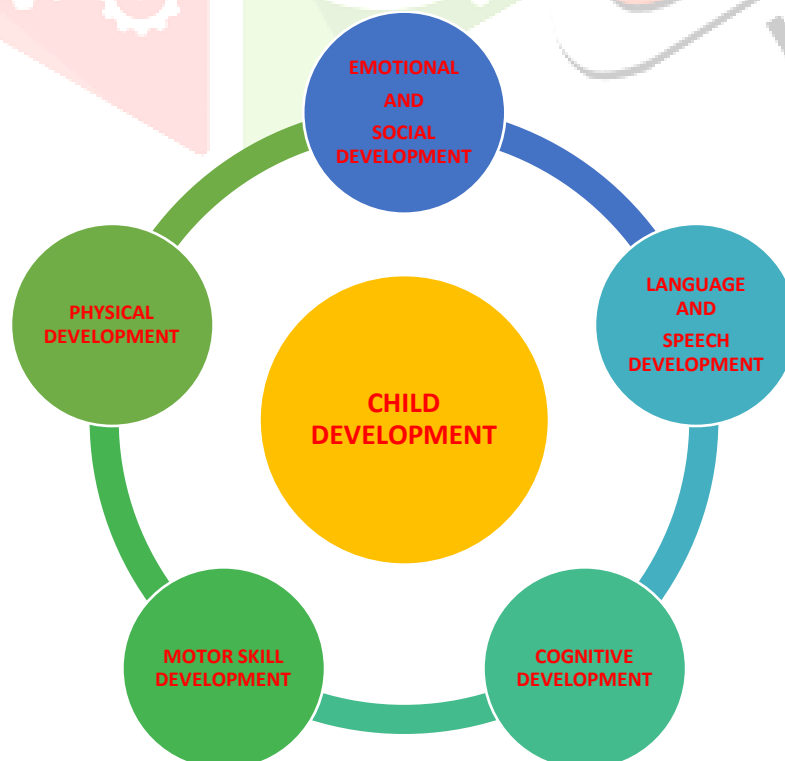
This paper includes three main segments namely introduction, growth strategy and results and discussion. First part of the study presents the meaning of child development that is the core component of the paper. Second part comprises the major areas of the child development which should be carefully handled by the parents. Last segment presents the results of the study that have been considered for the discussion.

## DEVELOPMENT OF A CHILD

The concept of child development has attained inordinate importance in the modern era as the result of which the scholars are giving continuous importance to this concept. E. B. Hurlock has pointed out that the name child psychology is changed to child development to emphasize that the focus is now on the pattern of the child development rather than only a certain aspect of development.

Watson has defined the child development by describing that the “Child development comes into being from the scientific study of the child.” The study of child development helps to understand the nature of a child so that the effective education and training can be provided to him accordingly. This concept also helps the people to create good environment for children. Child development is comprised of two words namely child and development. One should be aware about the meaning of development if he wants to understand the real meaning of child development. Development can be understood as the change in shape, form or structure as the result of which the functioning can be improved.

The main types of child development process comprise physical development, emotional and social development, language and speech development, cognitive development and motor skill development which should be considered carefully by the people.



*Physical Development:* A child should be physical strong so that he can develop his feelings about the situations. Physical development directly influences the behaviour of children. The main factors affecting the physical development include the food, exercise, safety from illness, sunlight, intelligence, culture and social influence and economic position etc. Family influence plays effective role in the physical growth of a child because it includes both the environmental and genetics factors.

*Emotional and Social Development:* The child should be emotionally and socially strong so that he can develop his ability to interact with his family members and other people in the society. The parents should recognise the feelings of the child so that they can be encouraged to share these feelings with other. Unnecessary interferences should be avoided in the everyday affairs of children.

*Language and Speech Development:* A child has to require communication with others. This communication is accomplished by the child through speech and language. Gestures and expressions play important role in the development of speech and language. Child starts to use few words during the age of 12 to 18 months. In this age, the child learns through hearing process. He should be encouraged to learn words by giving proper instructions. In the modern world of information and technology (ICT) audio and visual aids contribute a lot in developing the vocabulary of child.

*Cognitive Development:* Another major component of the child development is the development of cognitive skills. This component is related to the development of knowledge and skills so that they understand the environmental factors. Three main areas of this component are the memory, intellect and reasoning. Cognitive development is directly related to the growth of brain. The senses of a child and his interactions with others play inordinate role in the cognitive development. Five sense organs viz. eyes, tongue, ears, nose create a sound base for this component.

*Motor Skills Development:* Another main component of child development is the motor development which is concerned with the control over body movements of the child. The crawling and walking are two very important stages of motor development. The encounter of the child with different favourable and unfavourable situations creates the sense of specialisation which is also helpful in cognitive development. Hence, this development is closely related with the body movements.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

The concept of child development requires a lot of attention and knowledge. The parents should be aware about the components of child development so that they can monitor the development of the child in the effective manner. A systematic study of all the components of child development will enable the parents and teachers to be more competent in the growth process of children. Every component of child development process involves various steps which cannot ignored in any situation. Thus, the study of these components will certainly be beneficial to learn the basics of child development.

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