

how to make a child: developmental psychology crash course

MIT HSSP 2020 - TEACHER: MELISSA SANTOS

CLASS DESCRIPTION

How do children learn how to walk? Talk? Does our relationship with our parents influence our future relationships? Come find out the answers to these questions and many more! We'll talk about how children grow in the first five years of life, rapidly developing the motor, perceptual, linguistic, and socioemotional abilities we often take for granted.

CLASS LOGISTICS

Our class will meet for 6 Saturdays, beginning July 11. Class will go from 12PM-1PM EST.

During class, feel free to use a fun virtual background in line with our weekly theme. You are highly encouraged to participate via chat and polls, as well as interact with your classmates in breakout rooms. If you have a question, send it via chat or raise your hand.

CONTACT INFORMATION

If you have any questions at all, email me at S14076-teachers@esp.mit.edu. I'm always curious to hear what you're thinking about and learning in class, and how you think class could be improved.

Throughout the course, I will also solicit your feedback via anonymous surveys. Improving the course and helping you all learn is my top priority!

COURSE CALENDAR AND LEARNING GOALS

Week 1: How and why do scientists learn about babies and children?

LEARNING GOAL: GET AN OVERVIEW OF WHAT THE CLASS IS ABOUT: WHAT IS DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY? WHAT IS THE NATURE-NURTURE DEBATE? HOW DO DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHOLOGISTS ANSWER THE NATURE-NURTURE QUESTION?

Week 2: Babies know 1+1=2?!

LEARNING GOAL: UNDERSTAND HOW PERCEPTUAL AND MOTOR COGNITION CHANGE FROM BIRTH INTO THE FIRST FEW YEARS OF LIFE. LEARN THE "LOOKING TIME" EXPERIMENTAL PARADIGM.

Week 3: Babies understand grammar?!

LEARNING GOAL: UNDERSTAND HOW LANGUAGE LEARNING AND SPEECH DEVELOP IN THE FIRST FEW YEARS OF LIFE.

Week 4: Do babies have "morality"?!

LEARNING GOAL: UNDERSTAND HOW CHILDREN DEVELOP EMPATHY, HELPING, AND NOTIONS OF FAIRNESS.

Week 5: Do babies recognize race and gender?

LEARNING GOAL: UNDERSTAND HOW CHILDREN LEARN ABOUT SOCIAL CATEGORIES, AND HOW THIS FORMS THE ROOT OF STEREOTYPING AND DISCRIMINATION.

Week 6: Where do we go from here?

LEARNING GOAL: DURING AN INTERACTIVE FINAL, APPLY CLASS CONCEPTS TO DESIGNING TOYS, STORYBOOKS, AND EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION INTERVENTIONS