

This program is concerned with the physical, cognitive, personality and psychological development of the individual from birth until late adulthood. It provides an overview of the basic psychological concepts that are important in understanding and relating to children as they grow and develop. Definition of concepts, Brief history of child development, Heredity and environment, Interaction of nature and nurture are addressed. The major theories of growth and development are explored. These are such as: Biological theories; Learning theories; Psychoanalytic theories; Cognitive-developmental theories; Psychosocial theory and Humanistic theory. Of great importance is the focus on Physical Development of the Childhood and Adolescence, Cognitive Development (the Thinking Child): Cognitive power Measuring intellectual power Intelligence Quotient tests (IQ), The Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children IQ tests in the school, IQ tests, Factors influencing IQ, Influence of Heredity on IQ, and the influence of environment on IQ. The structure and Processes of Cognitive Development such as Piaget's basic ideas: Sensori-motor period, Pre-operational period, Concrete operational Thought, Formal operational thought, Information processing in children, are discussed in depth. Perceptual Development that includes some basic characteristics of perceptual development: Visual Development; Auditory development; Development of other senses; Combining information from several senses; as well as Individual differences in perception, are discussed. Language Development in Children discussions include Definition of language, Early steps in language development, Learning two languages (bilingual children), Development of word meaning, Using language-communication, Influence of the Environment on language development, The child's role in language development, and Adolescent language development. Personality Development discussion include Definition of personality, Various approaches to personality development: Biological approach, Learning approaches, Psychoanalytic theories: Freud's theory, Psychosocial Stages: Erikson Theory, and The effects of divorce: Being raised without a father or one parent. Parenting styles affecting the personality. The concept of the self, Individual differences in the self concept, Development of Gender or Sex-role concepts and sex role behavior from: Social

learning; Psychoanalytic; Cognitive developmental approaches, and the role of gender – stereotyping in the society (different communities). Psychological Development in Adolescence and Early Adulthood are addressed according to the following: Erikson's view, position of birth, Role of friends and peer groups in identity formation, Significant problems of adolescents, The adult and the society, and Dynamics of middle adulthood.