The Biological Study of the Child

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Abstract

Originally published in Contemporary Psychology: APA Review of Books, 1992, Vol 37(4), 357-358. Reviews the book, Application of Basic Neuroscience to Child Psychiatry edited by Stephen I. Deutsch, Abraham Weizman, and Ronit Weizman (1990). The book is divided into the following three sections: (a) basic neuroscience considerations, (b) application to specific clinical disorders, and (c) evaluation, drug development, and ethical considerations. The first section gives an overview of genetic, neurochemical, neuroanatomical, and neurobiological considerations in the understanding of brain development. The second section deals with genetics, biochemical, and neuroanatomical correlates to various syndromes such as autism, schizophrenia, attention-deficit disorder, Tourette's syndrome, obsessive-compulsive disorder, auto-aggressive behavior, suicide, and Down's syndrome. The last section of the book describes evaluation, drug development, and ethical considerations in the study of children. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2006 APA, all rights reserved)

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Biological factors can play a particularly important role in early development. These factors influence a child in both positive and negative ways. They can affect children throughout their development, particularly during critical times such as the prenatal period and early childhood. Scientists have studied the effect of excessive amounts of sex hormones on a child’s behavior. They have found that boys with higher than normal androgen levels play and behave similarly to their male peers with normal androgen levels. However, girls with high androgen levels typically exhibit more gender-stereotypic male traits than do girls who have normal androgen levels. Later biological viewpoints often incorporated cognitive components with physiological, genetic and neurological factor as they guided moral development and reasoning. For example, it is commonly acknowledged that there are critical periods for brain growth, during which there are intense social experiences, which occur early in life. Mental Imagery in the Child: A Study of the Development of Imaginal Representation. London: Routledge and Kega Paul Ltd. © 2017 Natalie Frank. A recent study even found evidence of viral excretion in children from rectal swabs. “At the moment it doesn't seem to be causing much in the way of serious disease in young people, particularly children,” says virologist Robin Shattock of Imperial College London. However, he adds, “it is quite likely that children are an important source of the virus.” Genetically modified mice have revolutionized the biological sciences, helping to uncover countless mechanisms of physiological and pathological function, as well as being instrumental for testing potential intervention possibilities. Understanding how mouse models work goes a long way in helping each scientist find a model that can help them answer their own research questions. Adopted children and adolescents are a part of the population and they get treated by nurses just as often as biological children. Understanding the health needs of the adoptive family is more important as adopted children are hospitalized and seen more. Nature versus nurture. In this study the researchers examined pairs of unrelated adoptive siblings and pairs of biologically related siblings and had their parents and teachers rate them to determine their aggressive behavior in adolescence. The parents and teachers were both asked to complete a Child Behavior Checklist that had them rate the children's aggressive and delinquency acts.