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Assessment 2: Report

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Introduction:

This report is going to be highlighting key factors about infancy and its theory, how it relates to me, the author's thoughts, and its effect on health and social care workers. I will also be highlighting key factors about what I've learnt from this whole topic and essay. I am writing about infancy as it is something that's a bit easier for me personally to speak about. I also have 3 kids who are all complete polar opposites and so that makes this even easier to write about. In this 1500 word assignment, my main topic is going to be infancy and the psychology behind infancy. This will include the development of infants, the origins of our young minds and their growth both mentally, physically and emotionally. I will also be criticising the theory of infancy, including the disadvantages and advantages, as well as my own and author's opinions. I will also be including information on how the theories I will be writing about can affect the practice of health and social care workers. The final two things I will be writing about is what I've learnt in this practice and my conclusion of the whole essay.

Reflection on infancy:

Based on my theory about infancy, is that the first few months of an infant is all about being established to the world around them. One thing an infant will hear a lot would be their mother's voice. Hearing their mother speaking to them frequently will allow them to learn different tones in speech and also they will know how to distinguish their mother from other women. Mother's voice is a constant and familiar presence in a child's environment, beginning at a time when these vocal sounds and vibrations are conducted through the intrauterine environment to the foetus' developing auditory pathways. (*BS Kisilevsky, SM Hains, 2011*). Based on what the two have said about a mother's voice being constant, infants will learn to adapt and get used to hearing it which may allow them to feel a sense of safety as well as feeling joy when hearing their mother's voice. This is important in the early stages of infancy because it means infants already know who their mother is without even needing to visibly see her face. A disadvantage of hearing their mother's voice would be that they may not be able to easily adapt to their fathers or other key figures in their lives and so diversity is very key.

Another thing that infants have established is their oral skills. For example, babies learn how to use their mouths straight from birth due to breastfeeding. It is less known that breast-fed infants exercise and prepare their orofacial muscles for future tasks of speaking and chewing, and also have higher oxygen saturation than bottle-fed infants. (*B Palmer, 1998*). Palmer has said this to show that infants develop multiple skills from the early few hours of birth and breastfeeding is the key to it all. Learning how to drink milk from the nipple of their mother's allows infants to easily develop skills like chewing where their mouths are involved once again, the same for speaking where your tongue is needed to pronounce and say certain things. A disadvantage of learning oral skills too early on may be putting too much in their mouths or even putting things that shouldn't be in their mouths which could put them at risk of severe danger.

Reflection of phenomenons of infancy:

By reflecting on the phenomena of infancy, I will mainly be focusing on Piaget's theory. Infancy is the first phase of stage of life. It's when a human being first enters the world and is surrounded by an environment full of new things to experience and learn. Whether it's new skills, emotions, infancy is all about learning and growth. Based on Piaget's theory, it is stated children's intelligence differs from that of adults (*Piaget, 1929*). This means that he knew that a child/ infant's mind would not function or think the same as an adult. This is because a child/infant has not had the time to grow enough to understand everything the same as a grown adult. Adults have lived more than double the years a infant has, which means an adult has had more time alive in the world and so they would know the right skills, way of speech, and they overall know more than a child does. With Piaget stating this, it helps me to understand that the younger the mind, the more to learn and so this is why the intelligence of children differs to adults. A second statement based on Piaget's theory is that children's intellectual skills change over time and that children of different ages interpret the world differently (*Piaget, 1950*). This tells me that as children grow older and develop brand new skills and ways of thinking, their way of seeing the world changes. For example, as an infant you may see the world as a bit busy or loud, maybe even scary due to the different sights and people who may not be family. As an infant, the world is innocent and there's not many negative thoughts in an infant's mind. But as they mature and grow older, they start to change their way of thinking and gain new opinions on things. Finally, I can connect with these two different phenomena because I also believe that as an infant, your intellectual skills are pretty minimised and there's not much to say or think but as you get older, your brain grows and you learn the difference between positive and negative.

Reflection:

Based on all those theories and phenomena in this report, I'm now going to state the effects they would have on a health and social care worker. Firstly, Piaget states that a child's intelligence differs from an adult. Meaning that infants may not know the "basic skills" or know how to do what we find "easy and simple". For example, infants may struggle to sit still or understand the words coming out of a healthcare worker's mouth. This is because they may have not yet learnt how to sit yet, let alone sit still. Or maybe when a healthcare worker says to open, they might not open their mouth straight away. This is because an infant might have not yet learnt these motor skills, nor have they understood the way of speech. This could impact a healthcare worker in a healthcare setting because it means that an infant may refuse to open their mouth for medicine because they don't know what's going into their mouth, they don't understand what can and can't go in their mouth and so this could be very hard to deal with. Secondly, children's intellectual skills change over time which means as they develop new skills then it means their bodies are rapidly changing and this could affect a health worker as they may have to change the way that they diagnose a child as their bodies may not be the same as it is when they in their first few months of life.

Conclusion:

To conclude this report, I will be summing up everything I've spoken about and what I've learnt. Firstly, based on Piaget's theory I completely agree with the fact that children's intellectual skills change over time. The majority of former 1-year olds recalled nothing about these highly stressful events, whereas most former 2-year olds recalled a great deal (Brainerd, C. J, 1990). This tells me that infants change and grow rapidly. Another thing to add is that I have also learnt that in the first few months of life, infants are learning very quickly and so by knowing this, it'll benefit me greatly in my career and help my knowledge.

References:

Reflection on infancy:

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- Piaget, J. (1929). The child's conception of the world. London: Routledge

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