

CHILDREN

7TH
DITION

JOHN W. SANTROCK

Edition



Children

JOHN W. SANTROCK

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT DALLAS



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John Santrock has been teaching undergraduate courses in developmental psychology every year since 1973.

Brief Contents

Section 1 The Nature of Children's Development

- 1 Introduction 5
- Appendix: Careers in Child Development 26
- 2 The Science of Child Development 35

Section 2 Beginnings

- 3 Biological Beginnings 69
- 4 Prenatal Development 99
- 5 Birth 128

Section 3 Infancy

- 6 Physical Development in Infancy 153
- 7 Cognitive Development in Infancy 191
- 8 Socioemotional Development in Infancy 219

Section 4 Early Childhood

- 9 Physical Development in Early Childhood 249
- 10 Cognitive Development in Early Childhood 273
- 11 Socioemotional Development in Early Childhood 309

Section 5 Middle and Late Childhood

- 12 Physical Development in Middle and Late Childhood 355
- 13 Cognitive Development in Middle and Late Childhood 383
- 14 Socioemotional Development in Middle and Late Childhood 425

Section 6 Adolescence

- 15 Physical Development in Adolescence 467
- 16 Cognitive Development in Adolescence 505
- 17 Socioemotional Development in Adolescence 539

Contents

Preface xvii

Section 1

The Nature of Children's Development 3



Chapter 1

Introduction 5

- THE STORIES OF JEFFREY DAHMER AND ALICE WALKER 5

Why Study Children? 6

Child Development—Yesterday and Today 6

Historical Views of Children 7

The Modern Study of Child Development 7

Improving the Lives of Today's Children 9

- *Through the Eyes of Children: Rescuing a Rain Forest* 10

- *Caring for Children: Building a Pyramid of Services for Parents and Children* 12

- *Thinking Critically: The Importance of Asking Questions—Exploring Your Own Development as a Child* 13

- *Careers in Child Development: Luis Vargas, Clinical Child Psychologist* 14

- *Thinking Critically: Imagining What Your Development as a Child Would Have Been Like in Other Cultural Contexts* 15

Social Policy and Children's Development 16

The Nature of Development 18

Biological, Cognitive, and Socioemotional Processes 19

Periods of Development 20

Developmental Issues 21

- REACH YOUR LEARNING GOALS 24

Appendix: Careers in Child Development 26



Chapter 2

The Science of Child Development 35

- THE STORIES OF ERIK ERIKSON AND JEAN PIAGET 35

Research on Child Development 36

Why Research on Child Development Is Important 36

The Scientific Research Approach 37

Theories of Child Development 39

Psychoanalytic Theories 39

Cognitive Theories 43

- *Through the Eyes of Children: The Cobwebs of Memory* 46

Behavioral and Social Cognitive Theories 47

Ethological Theory 49

Ecological Theory 51

- *Caring for Children: An Important Mesosystem Connection—Family and School* 52

An Eclectic Theoretical Orientation 53

- *Thinking Critically: Isn't Everyone a Psychologist?* 55

Research Methods 56

Measures 56

Correlation and Experimental Methods 57

Time Span of Research 59

Research Challenges 60

Ethics 60

Gender 61

- *Careers in Child Development: Pam Reid, Educational and Developmental*

Psychologist 61

Ethnicity and Culture 62

Being a Wise Consumer of Information About
Children's Development 62

- *Thinking Critically: Reading and Analyzing Reports
About Children's Development* 63

- *Careers in Child Development: Craig Hart,
University Professor* 64

- REACH YOUR LEARNING GOALS 66

Section 2

Beginnings 69



Chapter 3 Biological Beginnings 71

- THE STORY OF THE JIM AND JIM TWINS 71
- The Evolutionary Perspective 72
 - Natural Selection and Adaptive Behavior 72
 - Evolutionary Psychology 73
- Genetic Foundations 74
 - What Are Genes? 74
 - Mitosis and Meiosis 74
 - Genetic Principles 75
 - Methods Used by Behavior Geneticists 79
 - Molecular Genetics 80
 - Chromosome and Gene-Linked
Abnormalities 80
- *Careers in Child Development: Holly Ishmael,
Genetic Counselor* 82
- *Caring for Children: Genetic Counseling* 84
- Reproduction Challenges and Choices 85
 - Prenatal Diagnostic Tests 85
 - Infertility 86
 - Adoption 88
- Heredity-Environment Interaction 89
 - Intelligence 89
- *Thinking Critically: The Nobel Prize
Sperm Bank* 90
- Heredity-Environment Correlations 91
- Shared and Nonshared Environmental
Experiences 93
- Conclusions About Heredity-Environment
Interaction 93
- REACH YOUR LEARNING GOALS 96



Chapter 4 Prenatal Development 99

- THE STORY OF BIBINELLO 99
- The Course of Prenatal Development 100
 - The Germinal Period 100
 - The Embryonic Period 101
 - The Fetal Period 102
- Teratology and Hazards to Prenatal
Development 105
 - Exploring Teratology 105
 - Prescription and Nonprescription Drugs 107
 - Psychoactive Drugs 107
 - Incompatibility of Drug Types 110
 - Environmental Hazards 110
 - Other Maternal Factors 112
 - Paternal Factors 115
 - Positive Prenatal Development 115
- Expectant Parents 116
 - Confirming the Pregnancy and Calculating the
Due Date 116
 - The Three Trimesters and Preparation for the
Baby's Birth 117
- *Caring for Children: Prenatal Care and
Classes* 118
- The Expectant Mother's Nutrition, Weight Gain,
and Exercise 120
- *Careers in Child Development: Elizabeth Noble,
Physical Therapist and Childbirth
Educator* 122
- Culture and Prenatal Care 122
- REACH YOUR LEARNING GOALS 126



Chapter 5

Birth 129

● THE STORY OF TANNER ROBERTS' BIRTH:

A FANTASTIC VOYAGE 129

Exploring the Birth Process 130

Stages of Birth 130

The Fetus/Newborn Transition 130

- *Careers in Child Development: Rachel Thompson, Obstetrician/Gynecologist* 132

Childbirth Strategies and Decisions 132

- *Careers in Child Development: Linda Pugh, Perinatal Nurse* 135

- *Through the Eyes of Children: "That Baby Makes Silly Noises"* 137

Low Birth Weight Infants 138

Preterm and Small for Date Infants 139

Long-Term Outcomes for Low Birth Weight Infants 139

Stimulation of Preterm Infants 140

Measures of Neonatal Health and Responsiveness 140

- *Caring for Children: The Power of Touch and Massage in Development* 141

The Postpartum Period 143

Exploring the Postpartum Period 143

Physical Adjustments 144

Emotional and Psychological Adjustments 145

- *Thinking Critically: Evaluate the Postpartum Period* 145

Bonding 145

- *Careers in Child Development: Diane Sanford, Clinical Psychologist and Postpartum Expert* 146

- REACH YOUR LEARNING GOALS 148

Section 3

Infancy 151



Chapter 6

Physical Development in Infancy 153

● THE STORIES OF LATONYA AND RAMONA:

BOTTLE- AND BREAST-FEEDING IN AFRICA 153

Physical Growth and Development in Infancy 154

Cephalocaudal and Proximodistal Patterns 154

Height and Weight 155

The Brain 155

Sleep 162

Nutrition 164

- *Careers in Child Development: T. Berry Brazelton, Pediatrician* 165

Toilet Training 167

Health 168

- *Caring for Children: A Healthy Start* 169

Motor Development 170

The New Look in Motor Development 170

Reflexes 171

Gross Motor Skills 173

Fine Motor Skills 176

Sensory and Perceptual Development 178

What Are Sensation and Perception? 179

The Ecological View 179

Visual Perception 180

Other Senses 183

- *Thinking Critically: Devising Age-Appropriate Activities to Stimulate Infants' Different Sensory Modalities* 184

Intermodal Perception 185

Perceptual-Motor Coupling and Unification 186

- REACH YOUR LEARNING GOALS 188



Chapter 7

Cognitive Development in Infancy 191

- THE STORY OF LAURENT, LUCIENNE, AND JACQUELINE 191

Piaget's Theory of Infant Development	192
The Stage of Sensorimotor Development	193
Substages	193
Object Permanence	194
Evaluating Piaget's Sensorimotor Stage	196
Learning and Remembering	198
Conditioning	198
Habituation and Dishabituation	199
Imitation	199
Memory	200
Individual Differences in Intelligence	201
● <i>Careers in Child Development: Toosje Thyssen</i>	
<i>Van Beveren, Infant Assessment</i>	
<i>Specialist</i>	202
● <i>Thinking Critically: Comparing Piaget's Approach</i>	
<i>with the Individual Differences</i>	
<i>Approach</i>	203
Early Environmental Influences on Cognitive	
Development	203
Nutrition	203
Poverty	204
Language Development	206
Defining Language	206
How Language Develops	207
● <i>Through the Eyes of Children: "Monkeys Have Tails.</i>	
<i>Does Canny?"</i>	209
Biological Influences	210
Behavioral and Environmental Influences	211
● <i>Caring for Children: How Parents Can</i>	
<i>Facilitate Children's Language</i>	
<i>Development</i>	214
● REACH YOUR LEARNING GOALS	216



Chapter 8

Socioemotional Development in Infancy 219

● THE STORY OF TOM'S FATHERING	219
Emotional and Personality Development	220
Emotional Development	220
Temperament	225
● <i>Thinking Critically: Temperament and You</i>	228
Personality Development	228
Attachment	231
What Is Attachment?	231
Individual Differences	233
Caregiving Styles and Attachment	
Classification	234
● <i>Through the Eyes of Children: Megan's and Diann's</i>	
<i>Smooth Dance</i>	235
Attachment, Temperament, and the Wider Social	
World	235
Social Contexts	237
The Family	237
● <i>Careers in Child Development: Michael Lamb, Child</i>	
<i>Development Researcher</i>	240
Day Care	240
● <i>Caring for Children: Child Care Policy Around the</i>	
<i>World</i>	241
● <i>Careers in Child Development: Rashmi Nakhre,</i>	
<i>Day-Care Director</i>	242
● REACH YOUR LEARNING GOALS	244

Section 4

Early Childhood 247



Chapter 9

Physical Development in Early Childhood 249

● THE STORY OF TERESA AMABILE AND HER ART	249
Body Growth and Change	250
Height and Weight	250
The Brain	251
Visual Perception	253
Motor Development	253
Gross and Fine Motor Skills	254
● <i>Thinking Critically: Explaining to Parents Why</i>	
<i>Most 3-Year-Olds Should Not Participate in</i>	
<i>Sports</i>	255

- *Caring for Children: Supporting Young Children's Motor Development* 256
- Young Children's Artistic Drawings 256
- Handedness 257
- Sleep and Sleep Problems 260
 - Transitional Objects 260
 - Sleep Problems 260
- Nutrition 261
 - Energy Needs 261
 - Eating Behavior 261
- Health, Safety, and Illness 265
 - Childhood Injuries 265
 - Contexts and Young Children's Health 266
- *Careers in Child Development: Barbara Deloin, Pediatric Nurse* 267
- The State of Illness and Health in the World's Children 268
- REACH YOUR LEARNING GOALS 270



Chapter 10

Cognitive Development in Early Childhood 273

- THE STORY OF REGGIO EMILIA'S CHILDREN 273
- Cognitive Developmental Changes 274
 - Piaget's Preoperational Stage 274
- *Through the Eyes of Children: You're a Nice Book* 275
- Vygotsky's Theory of Development 280
- Information Processing 285
- The Young Child's Theory of Mind 289
- *Careers in Child Development: Helen Schwe, Developmental Psychologist and Toy Designer* 290
- Language Development 291
 - Developmental Changes 292
 - Literacy and Early Childhood Education 294
- Early Childhood Education 295
 - Variations in Early Childhood Education 295
- *Thinking Critically: Giving Advice to Parents About Selecting a Good Preschool Program* 296
- *Careers in Child Development: Yolanda Garcia, Director of Children's Services/Head Start* 300

- *Caring for Children: Parents and Schools as Partners in the Young Child's Education* 302
- Does Preschool Matter? 303
- School Readiness 304
- *Careers in Child Development: Anita Marie Hitchcock, Early Childhood Educator* 305
- REACH YOUR LEARNING GOALS 306



Chapter 11

Socioemotional Development in Early Childhood 309

- THE STORY OF SARA AND HER DEVELOPING SENSE OF MORALITY AND VALUES 309
- Emotional and Personality Development 310
 - The Self 310
 - Emotional Development 311
 - Moral Development 315
- *Through the Eyes of Children: Amos Bear Gets Hurt* 316
- Gender 318
- Families 325
 - Parenting Styles 325
 - Child Abuse 327
- *Thinking Critically: Evaluating the Parenting Styles of Both Parents* 327
- *Careers in Child Development: Darla Botkin, Marriage and Family Therapist* 328
- Parenting: Nature or Nurture? 329
- Good Parenting Takes Time and Effort 330
- *Careers in Child Development: Janis Keyser, Parent Educator* 330
- Sibling Relationships and Birth Order 330
- *Through the Eyes of Children: Dealing with My Sister* 331
- The Changing Family in a Changing Social World 333
- *Caring for Children: Communicating with Children About Divorce* 337
- Peer Relations, Play, and Television 339
 - Peer Relations 339

Play 341

Television 346

- *Thinking Critically: Developing Parental Guidelines for Children's TV Viewing* 350

● REACH YOUR LEARNING GOALS 352

Section 5

Middle and Late Childhood 355



Chapter 12

Physical Development in Middle and Late Childhood 357

- THE STORY OF ZHANG LIYIN 357
- Body Growth and Proportion 358
 - Skeletal and Muscular Systems 358
 - Tooth Development and Dental Care 358
- Motor Development 359
- Children's Health 361
 - Nutrition 361
 - Exercise and Sports 362
 - Health Problems 364
- *Caring for Children: Parents and Children's Sports* 365
- *Through the Eyes of Children: Adam Rojo: An Optimistic 7-Year-Old Fights for His Life* 368
- *Careers in Child Development: Sharon McLeod, Child Life Specialist* 369
- Children with Disabilities 370
 - Who Are Children with Disabilities? 370
 - Sensory Disorders 371
 - Physical Disorders 372
 - Speech Disorders 372
 - Learning Disabilities 372
- *Careers in Child Development: Sharla Peltier, Speech Pathologist* 373
- *Thinking Critically: Reflecting on Learning Disabilities* 374
- Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder 374
- Autism 376
- Educational Issues 377
- REACH YOUR LEARNING GOALS 380



Chapter 13

Cognitive Development in Middle and Late Childhood 383

- THE STORY OF JESSICA DUBROFF, CHILD PILOT 383
- Cognition 384
 - Piaget's Theory 384
 - Information Processing 388
- *Careers in Child Development: Laura Martin, Science Museum Educator and Research Specialist* 391
- Intelligence and Creativity 396
- *Thinking Critically: Should Parents Be Testing Their Own Child's IQ?* 397
- *Through the Eyes of Children: The 8-Year-Old Filmmaker and the Oozy Red Goop* 407
- *Careers in Child Development: Sterling Jones, Supervisor of Gifted and Talented Education* 408
- Language Development 410
 - Vocabulary and Grammar 410
 - Reading 410
- *Caring for Children: A Teacher's Passion for Literacy* 412
- Bilingualism 412
- Achievement 414
 - Need for Achievement 415
 - Extrinsic and Intrinsic Motivation 415
 - Mastery Orientation 416
 - Self-Efficacy 417
 - Goal Setting, Planning, and Self-Monitoring 417
- *Thinking Critically: Personalizing Achievement* 418
- Ethnicity and Culture 418
- REACH YOUR LEARNING GOALS 422



Chapter 14

Socioemotional Development in Middle and Late Childhood 425

- THE STORIES OF LAFAYETTE AND PHAROAH: THE TRAGEDY OF POVERTY AND VIOLENCE 425
- Emotional and Personality Development 426
 - The Self 426
 - Emotional Development 430
- *Through the Eyes of Children: When a Child's Parent Dies* 432
- Moral Development 433
- *Thinking Critically: Exploring Your Moral Thinking* 436
- Gender 440
- *Thinking Critically: Rethinking the Words We Use in Gender Worlds* 442

Section 6

Adolescence 465



Chapter 15

Physical Development in Adolescence 467

- STORIES OF THE MYSTERIES AND CURIOSITIES OF ADOLESCENT SEXUALITY 467
- The Nature of Adolescence 468
 - Biological and Sociohistorical Foundations 468
 - Today's Youth 469
- *Through the Eyes of Children: Stereotyping Us* 470
- Puberty 472
 - Determinants of Puberty 472
 - Growth Spurt 474
 - Sexual Maturation 475
 - Secular Trends in Puberty 476
 - Psychological Dimensions 476
- *Through the Eyes of Children: Attractive Blond Females and Tall Muscular Males* 479

- Families 446
 - Parent-Child Issues 446
 - Stepfamilies 447
 - Latchkey Children 448
 - *Caring for Children: Parenting and Children in Stepfamilies* 449
- Peer Relations 450
 - Peer Statuses 450
 - Bullying 451
 - Social Cognition 452
 - Friends 452
- Schools 455
 - Contemporary Approaches 455
 - The Transition to Elementary School 456
 - Socioeconomic Status and Ethnicity 457
 - *Careers in Child Development: Susan Bradburn, Elementary School Teacher* 457
 - *Careers in Child Development: Donna Smith, School Psychologist* 459
 - *Careers in Child Development: James Comer, Child Psychiatrist* 461
 - REACH YOUR LEARNING GOALS 462

- Pubertal Timing and Health Care 479
- Sexuality 480
 - Developing a Sexual Identity and Sexual Activity 481
 - Risk Factors for Sexual Problems 484
 - Contraceptive Use 485
 - Sexually Transmitted Diseases 485
 - *Thinking Critically: Sexual Behavior and Moral Choices: Privacy and Protection* 487
 - *Through the Eyes of Children: Pressing Sexual Issues* 487
 - Adolescent Pregnancy 487
 - *Careers in Child Development: Lynn Blankinship, Family and Consumer Science Educator* 488
 - *Through the Eyes of Children: Kids Having Kids* 489
- Adolescent Problems and Health 490
 - Risk Factors and Assets 490
 - Substance Use and Abuse 491
 - Eating Disorders 494

- Adolescent Health 497
- *Through the Eyes of Children: The Struggles of an Anorexic Adolescent* 497
- *Careers in Child Development: Marilyn Billingsly, Adolescence Medicine Specialist* 499
- *Caring for Children: Life Science and Life Skills Education* 500
- REACH YOUR LEARNING GOALS 502



Chapter 16

Cognitive Development in Adolescence 505

- THE STORY OF CLEVELAND WILKES 505
- Adolescent Cognition 506
 - Piaget's Theory 506
 - *Thinking Critically: Piaget, Children, Adolescents, and Political Conventions* 507
 - *Through the Eyes of Children: Why Don't You Understand Me? Why Do You Blame Me for Everything?* 507
 - Adolescent Egocentrism 508
 - Information Processing 510
 - *Careers in Child Development: Laura Bickford, Secondary School Teacher* 513
- Values and Religion 514
 - Values 514
 - *Thinking Critically: Exploring Your Values* 516
 - Moral Education 516
 - *Through the Eyes of Children: Finding a Way to Get a Playground* 517
 - Religion 518
- Schools 521
 - The Transition to Middle or Junior High School 521
 - Effective Schools for Young Adolescents 523
 - High School Dropouts 523
 - *Thinking Critically: Evaluating Your Own Middle or Junior High School* 524
 - Cross-Cultural Comparisons 524
- Career Development and Work 526
 - Career Development 526
 - *Careers in Child Development: Armando Ronquillo, High School Counselor/College Advisor* 530

- *Through the Eyes of Children: Thinking About Barriers* 531
- *Caring for Children: A Technology and Science Support Program for Ethnic Minority Girls* 532
- Work 533
- *Through the Eyes of Children: Being Raised to Be Responsible* 534
- REACH YOUR LEARNING GOALS 536



Chapter 17

Socioemotional Development in Adolescence 539

- THE STORY OF A 15-YEAR-OLD GIRL'S SELF-DESCRIPTION 539
- Identity 540
 - Some Contemporary Thoughts 541
 - Identity Statuses 541
 - *Thinking Critically: Exploring Your Identity* 542
 - Developmental Changes 542
 - Family Influences 543
 - Culture, Ethnicity, and Gender 544
 - *Through the Eyes of Children: Identity Exploring* 545
- Families 547
 - Autonomy and Attachment 547
 - *Through the Eyes of Children: Needing Parents as Guides* 547
 - Parent-Adolescent Conflict 548
 - *Careers in Child Development: Martha Chan, Marriage and Family Therapist* 549
 - The Maturation of Adolescents and Parents 550
- Peers 550
 - Peer Groups 551
 - Friendships 552
 - Youth Organizations 553
 - *Through the Eyes of Children: We Defined Each Other with Adjectives* 554
 - Dating and Romantic Relationships 555
 - *Through the Eyes of Children: They Were Thinking About Having Sex with Girls from Budweiser Ads* 557

Culture and Adolescent Development 558

Cross-Cultural Comparisons and Rites of

Passage 558

Ethnicity 560

- *Through the Eyes of Children: Seeking a Positive*

Image for African American Youth 562

- *Caring for Children: El Puente and Quantum* 563

Adolescent Problems 564

Juvenile Delinquency 564

- *Careers in Child Development: Rodney Hammond,*

Health Psychologist 565

Depression and Suicide 568

- *Through the Eyes of Children: Land of Diminished*

Dreams 569

The Interrelation of Problems and Successful

Prevention/Intervention Programs 571

- *Thinking Critically: Why Is a Course of Risk Taking*
in Adolescence Likely to Have More Serious

Consequences Today Than in the Past? 571

- REACH YOUR LEARNING GOALS 574

Glossary G-1

References R-1

Credits C-1

Name Index NI-1

Subject Index SI-1



Early Childhood

Section 4

You are troubled at seeing him spend his early years doing nothing. What! Is it nothing to be happy? Is it nothing to skip, to play, to run about all day long? Never in his life will he be so busy as now.

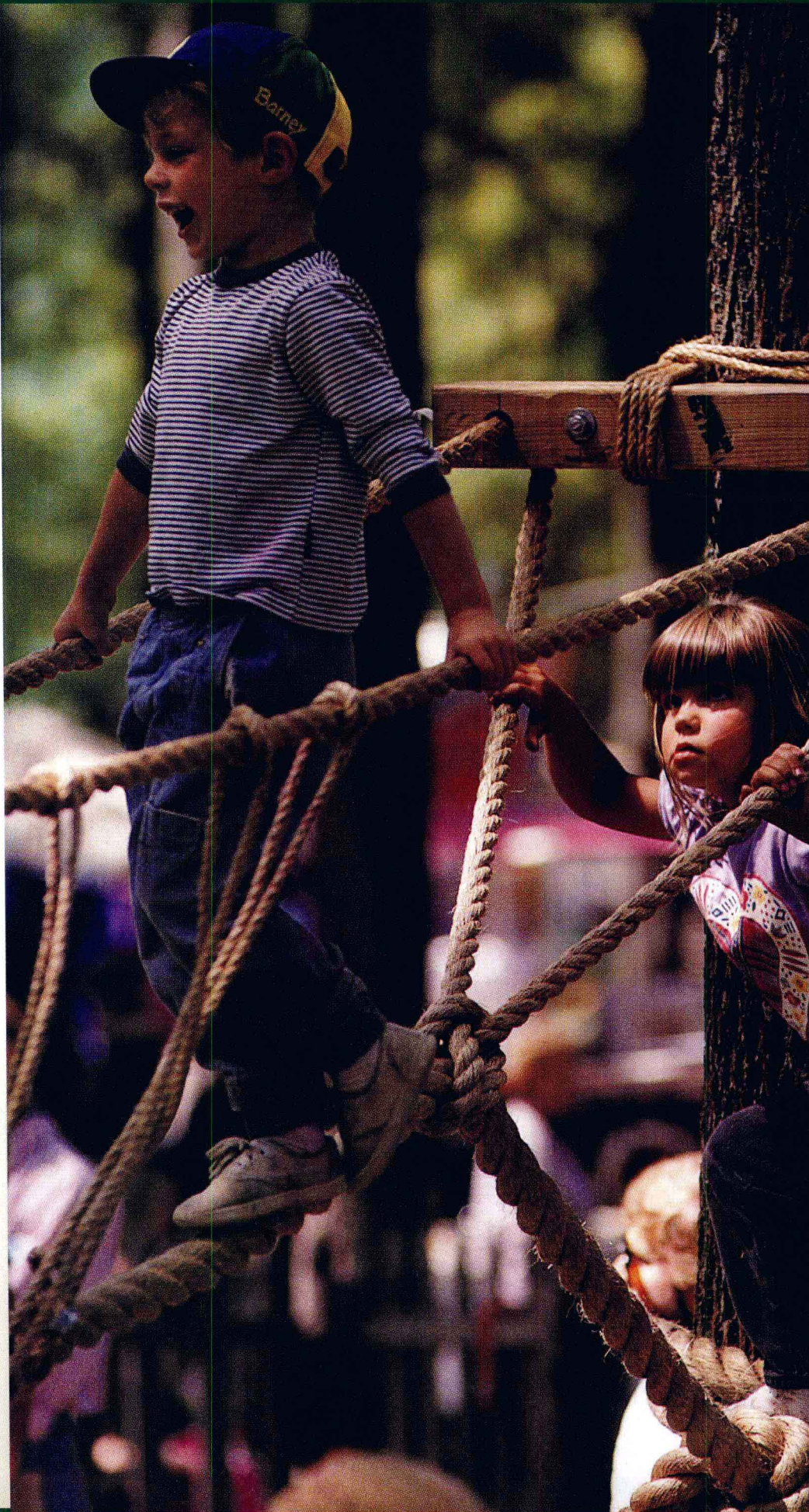
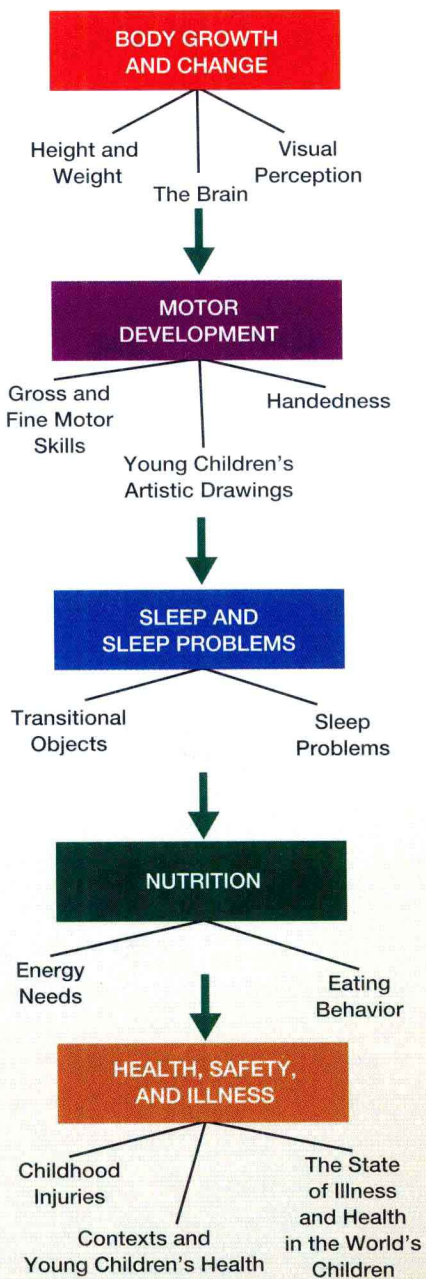
—Jean-Jacques Rousseau
Swiss-Born French Philosopher, 18th Century


In early childhood, our greatest untold poem was being only 4 years old. We skipped and ran and played all the sun long, never in our lives so busy, busy being something we had not quite grasped yet. Who knew our thoughts, which we worked up into small mythologies all our own? Our thoughts and images and drawings took wings. The blossoms of our heart, no wind could touch. Our small world widened as we discovered new refuges and new people. When we said, "I," we meant something totally unique, not to be confused with any other. Section 4 consists of three chapters: "Physical Development in Early Childhood" (chapter 9), "Cognitive Development in Early Childhood" (chapter 10), and "Socioemotional Development in Early Childhood" (chapter 11).

Chapter

9

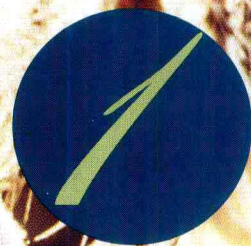
Chapter Map





The Nature of Children's Development

Section



On every child who is born, under no matter what circumstances, and of no matter what parents, the potentiality of the human race is born again.

—James Agee,
American Writer, 20th Century

Examining the shape of childhood allows us to understand it better. Every childhood is distinct, the first chapter of a new biography in the world. This book is about children's development—its universal features, its individual variations, its nature at the beginning of the twenty-first century. *Children* is about the rhythm and meaning of children's lives, about turning mystery into understanding, and about weaving together a portrait of who each of us was, is, and will be. In Section 1 you will read two chapters: "Introduction" (chapter 1) and "The Science of Child Development" (chapter 2).