CHILD GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

—98/99 =



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CHILD GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT 98/99

Fifth Edition



Editor

Ellen N. Junn

California State University, Fullerton

Ellen Junn is a professor of child development, administrative fellow in the Office of the Vice President of Academic Affairs, and director of the Office of Educational Equity at California State University, Fullerton. She received a B.S. in experimental psychology from the University of Michigan and her M.A. and Ph.D. in cognitive and developmental psychology from Princeton University. In addition to her work on educational equity issues, Dr. Junn's research and publications focus on developments in children's conceptions regarding adult social relationships and on college teaching effectiveness.

Editor

Chris J. Boyatzis

Bucknell University

Chris Boyatzis is an assistant professor of psychology at Bucknell University. He received a B.A; in psychology from Boston University and his M.A. and Ph.D. in developmental psychology from Brandeis University. Many of his research interests lie at the intersection of social and cognitive development in early childhood. Dr. Boyatzis has published research on children's nonverbal behavior and social status, media effects on children, symbolic development, and play and art. He has also written on the vertical development of the psychology.



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Fifth Edition

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Members of the Advisory Board are instrumental in the final selection of articles for each edition of ANNUAL EDITIONS. Their review of articles for content, level, currentness, and appropriateness provides critical direction to the editor and staff. We think that you will find their careful consideration well reflected in this volume.

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To the Reader

In publishing ANNUAL EDITIONS we recognize the enormous role played by the magazines, newspapers, and journals of the public press in providing current, first-rate educational information in a broad spectrum of interest areas. Many of these articles are appropriate for students, researchers, and professionals seeking accurate, current material to help bridge the gap between principles and theories and the real world. These articles, however, become more useful for study when those of lasting value are carefully collected, organized, indexed, and reproduced in a low-cost format, which provides easy and permanent access when the material is needed. That is the role played by ANNUAL EDITIONS. Under the direction of each volume's academic editor, who is an expert in the subject area, and with the guidance of an Advisory Board, each year we seek to provide in each ANNUAL EDITION a current, well-balanced, carefully selected collection of the best of the public press for your study and enjoyment. We think that you will find this volume useful, and we hope that you will take a moment to let us know what you think.

We are delighted to welcome you to this fifth volume of Annual Editions: Child Growth and Development 98/99. The amazing sequence of events of prenatal development that lead to the birth of a baby is an aweinspiring process. Perhaps more intriguing is the guestion of what the future may hold for this newly arrived baby-for instance, will this child become a doctor, a lawyer, an artist, a beggar, or a thief? Although philosophers and prominent thinkers such as Charles Darwin and Sigmund Freud have long speculated about the importance of infancy on subsequent development, not until the 1960s did the scientific study of infants and young children flourish. Since then, research and theory in infancy and childhood has exploded, resulting in a wealth of new knowledge about child development.

Past accounts of infants and young children as passive, homogeneous organisms have been replaced with investigations aimed at studying infants and young children at a "microlevel"—as active individuals with many inborn competencies, who are capable of shaping their own environment—as well as at a "macrolevel," by considering the larger context surrounding the child. In short, children are not "blank slates," and development does not take place in a vacuum; children arrive with many skills and grow up in a complex web of social, historical, political, economic, and cultural spheres.

As was the case for previous editions, we hope to achieve at least four major goals with this volume. First, we hope to present you with the latest research and thinking to help you better appreciate the complex interactions that characterize human development in infancy and childhood. Second, in light of the feedback we received on previous editions, we have placed greater emphasis on important contemporary issues and challenges, exploring topics such as understanding development in the context of current societal and cultural influences. Third, attention is given to articles that also discuss effective, practical applications. Finally, we hope that this anthology will serve as a catalyst to help students become more effective future professionals and parents.

To achieve these objectives, we carefully selected articles from a variety of sources, including scholarly research journals and texts as well as semiprofessional journals and popular publications. Every selection was scrutinized for readability, interest level, relevance, and currency. In addition, we listened to the valuable input and advice from members of our advisory board, consisting of faculty from a range of institutions of higher education, including community and liberal arts colleges as well as research and teaching universities. We are most grateful to the advisory board as well as to the excellent editorial staff of Dushkin/McGraw-Hill Publishers.

Annual Editions: Child Growth and Development 98/99 is organized into five major units. Unit 1 focuses on conception, prenatal development, and childbirth. Unit 2 presents information regarding developments in cognition, language, and learning. Unit 3 focuses on social and emotional development. Unit 4 is devoted to parenting and family issues such as working parents, marital transitions, siblings, and discipline. Finally, unit 5 focuses on larger cultural and societal influences (such as poverty, the media) and on special challenges (such as childhood victimization and abuse, children with attention deficits).

Instructors for large lecture courses may wish to adopt this anthology as a supplement to a basic text, whereas instructors for smaller sections might also find the readings effective for promoting student presentations or for stimulating discussions and applications. Whatever format is utilized, it is our hope that the instructor and the students will find the readings interesting, illuminating, and provocative.

As the title indicates, Annual Editions: Child Growth and Development is by definition a volume that undergoes continual review and revision. Thus, we welcome and encourage your comments and suggestions for future editions of this volume. Simply fill out and return the comment card found at the end of this book. Best wishes, and we look forward to hearing from you!

Men N. Junn Chin & Bayangui

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UNIT 1



Conception to Birth

Five articles discuss the development of the child from the prenatal stage to birth.

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A. Prenatal Development	
1. Politics of Biology, Wray Herbert, U.S. News April 21, 1997. This interesting article highlights the nature/nurture dresses research on the roles of genes and experimental illness, violence, sexual orientation, and alco shows how psychological research both contribute the trends in broader societal values about the role environment in human behavior.	e debate, and ad- rience in shaping holism. This piece es to and reflects
2. Making Babies, Nancy Wartik, Los Angeles of March 6, 1994. For many couples, the realities of a "normal" concept beyond reach. Today, a dizzying number of high-zation techniques (artificial insemination, in vitro is SUZI, ICSI, and others) extend hope to millions of with various forms of infertility. However, couples often costly techniques may face moral and social	nception may be technology fertili- fertilization, GIFT, of couples coping who opt for these
 Waiting Game, Susan Gilbert, New York T April 25, 1993. Pregnant women and physicians have available to sive arsenal of prenatal diagnostic tests. Susan Gilb of the most common, such as chorionic villi sami and amniocentesis. 	them an impres- pert reviews some
B. Birth and Babies	
4. The Fantastic Voyage of Tanner Roberts, F Los Angeles Times, March 1, 1992. This fascinating article captures the final days and child's birth. Psychological and physiological detail experience for the child and the mother are describe account of one boy's birth.	minutes before a Is about the <i>birth</i>
5. Putting a New Spin on the Birth of Human Fischman, Science, May 20, 1994. Joshua Fischman presents an evolutionary perspective raises provocative questions about why humans as we are. Fischman discusses anthropological and dence on the challenges posed by human babies?	tive on birth and are born the way evolutionary evi-

shoulders.



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A. Early Cognitive Development

- 6. Fertile Minds, J. Madeleine Nash, Time, February 3, 1997. This article explains the development of neurons and synapses, the connections between brain cells. Research on vision, motor development, language, and emotion demonstrates that both nature and experience in early childhood play important roles in shaping brain development.
- 7. How to Build a Baby's Brain, Sharon Begley, Newsweek, Special Issue, Spring/Summer 1997.

 This article summarizes recent research showing that babies are innately wired to learn. However, innate potential is developed through interacting with the environment, and experience after birth plans a crucial role in sharing the actual within a first party.
- plays a crucial role in shaping the actual wiring of the baby's brain.

 8. The Language Explosion, Geoffrey Cowley, Newsweek, Special Issue, Spring/Summer 1997.

 Explaining how children acquire language has long been a fascinating challenge for psychologists. This article reviews recent perspectives on the roles of innate tendencies and how children put them to use in understanding and communicating with their environment.
- 9. Starting Point, George Butterworth, Natural History, May 1997.
 Parents and psychologists alike focus on sounds and speech as signs of language development. But in this interesting article, Butterworth discusses pointing as an early nonverbal act that emerges in the first year of life, and he explains how it may be important for speech and communication.
- 10. 10 Myths about Child Development, Julius Segal, Parents, July 1989.
 Using research findings, Julius Segal exposes 10 popular misconceptions involving child development issues ranging from attachment and IQ to discipline and neglect.
- 11. How Do Infants Learn about the Physical World? Renée Baillargeon, Current Directions in Psychological Science, October 1994.
 Based on the pioneering work of Jean Piaget, researchers once assumed that infants lacked a sense of object permanence. Renée Baillargeon describes her well-known and ingenious research indicating that young infants do, in fact, possess more fundamental and elaborate knowledge about physical objects than once thought.

- 12. Vygotsky's Theory: The Importance of Make-Believe Play,
 Laura E. Berk, Young Children, November 1994.
 This article describes the view of Lev Vygotsky, a Russian psychologist who emphasized the importance of pretend play as a forum for learning. In particular, children learn through interactions with parents and teachers that create a scaffold for experiences, allowing youngsters to take over more responsibility as their skills increase.

 13. Malnutrition. Poverty, and Intellectual Development.
- 13. Malnutrition, Poverty, and Intellectual Development, J. Larry Brown and Ernesto Pollitt, Scientific American, February 1996. The authors describe research from around the world demonstrating that a poor diet influences children's intellectual development in many ways. The article also addresses other effects of poverty on children's

B. Learning in School

mental growth.

- 14. What Should Children Learn? Paul Gagnon, The Atlantic Monthly, December 1995.
 Paul Gagnon describes one of the most contentious debates in American education today—whether there should be national standards for children—and explains the competing political forces that shape and impede educational reform. Gagnon presents a historical perspective on the debate over national standards for education.
- What Have We Learned about Developmentally Appropriate Practice? Loraine Dunn and Susan Kontos, Young Children, July 1997.
 This review article presents research on issues in early childhood education, including didactic versus child-centered instruction, teachers' and parents' attitudes, and the impact of early childhood teaching practices on children's social and cognitive development.
 How Asian Teachers Polish Each Lesson to Perfection,
- James W. Stigler and Harold W. Stevenson, American Educator, Spring 1991.

 Stigler and Stevenson's research on math education in China, Japan, and the United States reveals significant cultural differences in the values, practices, and expectations of both teachers and students. However, due to cultural differences, adoption of Asian teaching techniques in the United States would not necessarily result in similar benefits to children in our culture.
- 17. The IQ Puzzle, Sharon Begley, Newsweek, May 6, 1996. Scores on intelligence tests have risen dramatically in many countries. Does this mean that children today are smarter than ever? Sharon Begley discusses the possible reasons for these gains—including the popularity of video games and cereal boxes with mazes and puzzles for children—and also addresses the debate on whether IQ tests truly measure intelligence.

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A. The Child's Feelings: Emotional Development

18. Early Experience and Emotional Development: The Emergence of Wariness of Heights, Joseph J. Campos, Bennett I. Bertenthal, and Rosanne Kermoian, Psychological Science, January 1992.
How do we become afraid of heights? Are we born with that fear

How do we become afraid of heights? Are we born with that fear or do we learn it through life experiences? This article by prominent researchers describes careful experiments designed to determine whether babies are born with a fear of heights or if they acquire it only after they begin to crawl and to experience moving around in the world.

The Moral Power of Good Stories, William Kilpatrick, American Educator, Summer 1993.
 Stories help to make sense of our lives, claims William Kilpatrick, and they offer children vivid examples of morals and good values. This essay urges educators and parents to use stories as a powerful means of communicating to children about character and virtue.

B. Entry into the Social World: Peers, Play, and Popularity

- 20. The EQ Factor, Nancy Gibbs, Time, October 2, 1995.
 Recent brain research suggests that emotions, not the traditional IQ rating, may be the true measure of human intelligence. This article examines this latest trend in the assessment of human ability to cope successfully with challenges.
- 21. Children without Friends, Janis R. Bullock, Childhood Education, Winter 1992.
 According to research, having friends is crucial for normal development. This article describes the sociometric status of different kinds of children—the popular, rejected, and neglected—and the implications of not having friends. Suggestions are given for teachers to identify and help children who are without friends.
- 22. Girls and Boys Together . . . but Mostly Apart: Gender Arrangements in Elementary Schools, Barrie Thorne, from Gender Play: Girls and Boys in School, Rutgers University Press, 1993.

Gender segregation—boys playing with boys, girls with girls—is very common during the elementary school years. How might this affect boys' and girls' social and interpersonal development? Barrie Thorne describes how not only peers but teachers as well contribute to gender segregation.



Parenting and Family Issues

Five articles assess the latest implications of child development with regard to attachment, marital transitions, day care, and discipline.

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23. The Day-Care Dilemma, James Collins, *Time*, February 3, 1997.

If early experiences influence babies' brains and development, as earlier articles have discussed, then how does day care influence young children? This article underscores the link between psychological research and public policy, and discusses how different states around the United States are attempting to provide children with a "smart start."

24. Fathers' Time, Paul Roberts, Psychology Today, May/June 1996.

Paul Roberts presents evidence about fathers' roles in the family, their influence on children's emotional and intellectual development, and their distinct interaction styles. Roberts also describes how fathers have only recently received attention from researchers, showing that they are no longer subservient in the parenting realm.

25. First Born, Later Born, Geoffrey Cowley, Newsweek, October 7, 1996.

A radical new theory by Frank Sulloway claims that one's birth order has a strong influence on whether one will become a rebel or will protect the status quo. This article reviews Sulloway's provocative ideas, which help us understand how family structure can shape our personalities and, ultimately, history.

- 26. How Children Learn to Resolve Conflicts in Families, Susan Crockenberg, Zero to Three, April 1992. According to Susan Crockenberg, children learn how to settle conflicts from early experiences in the home. When faced with a child's behavior problem or conflict, parents can provide their young children with practice in conflict negotiation skills by using strategies that
- include directives, explanations, and compromise. Acquiring these skills early should have many long-term benefits.

 27. Why Spanking Takes the Spunk Out of Kids, Nick Gallo, Child, March/April 1989.

Spanking is a very common form of discipline, but is it effective? Perhaps more importantly, does it do short-term or lasting *psychological harm*? Nick Gallo addresses these issues and offers *alternative techniques* to help people realize that *discipline* does not mean spanking, but it does mean instilling *self-control* in the child.



Cultural and Societal Influences

Overview

Ten selections examine how society and culture impact on the development of the child.

A.	Social Issues	
28.	School and Family in the Postmodern World, David Elkind, Phi Delta Kappan, September 1995. David Elkind describes how schools and education have undergone, in the postmodern era, major changes due to broader changes in the family and society. One such change is that schools now assume many parental functions.	166
29.	Buried Alive, David Denby, The New Yorker, July 15, 1996. In a thoughtful essay, David Denby argues that today's youth are buried by "an avalanche of crud" from popular culture—television, films, toys, and video and computer games. Denby offers many novel ideas about the impression this culture may leave on children's character and on their views of reality.	172
30.	Why Leave Children with Bad Parents? Michele Ingrassia and John McCormick, Newsweek, April 25, 1994. In 1993 alone there were one million confirmed cases of child neglect and abuse in the United States. Yet, in many states, the child welfare system often strives to keep families intact rather than put children in the care of foster parents (who came into greater demand in the late 1980s when crack use increased dramatically). The authors raise difficult issues about America's care for children who are at risk.	179
31.	Child Labor in Pakistan, Jonathan Silvers, The Atlantic Monthly, February 1996. The exploitation of children as laborers illustrates the influence of economic and political factors on how children are viewed and treated in a society. Jonathan Silvers describes how Pakistan's recent laws limiting child labor are generally ignored, leaving an estimated 11 million children toiling in that country's factories.	183
32.	Violence, Reel to Real, John Leland, Newsweek, December 11, 1995. John Leland looks at the debate on violence in film and television and challenges the research conclusion that there is a clear causal relationship between televised violence and real-life aggression. Leland critiques many of the famous studies on the topic and discusses the recent controversy over the V-chip.	194
33.	Get 'em While They're Young, Karen Stabiner, Los Angeles Times Magazine, August 15, 1993. Karen Stabiner describes how advertisers set their sights on young children, using sophisticated tactics to shape their consumer habits and tastes to cultivate lifelong loyalty to their products. Also discussed	197

are techniques that parents can use to protect children from the early onslaught of advertising aimed at those too young to understand that commercials are designed to sell a product.

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B. Special Challenges

- 34. Victimization of Children, David Finkelhor and Jennifer Dziuba-Leatherman, American Psychologist, March 1994. This eye-opening article presents statistics showing that children are more prone to victimization than are adults. Victimology of childhood falls into three broad categories—pandemic victimization (e.g., assault by siblings, parents, peers), acute victimization (e.g., physical abuse), and extraordinary victimization (e.g., homicide). The authors call for more research and theory on childhood victimology, using a developmental perspective.
- 35. Resilience in Development, Emmy E. Werner, Current Directions in Psychological Science, June 1995.

 Many of the studies that focused on children and youths who overcame great odds have been relatively short-term. Emily Werner discusses a study that analyzes child resiliency and development over a period of 3 decades.
- 36. Young Children with Attention Deficits, Steven Landau and Cecile McAninch, Young Children, May 1993.

 Attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) is a frequently misunderstood, complex disorder. This review article describes ADHD, its possible causes and treatments, and the effects of the disorder for children in the classroom setting.
- 37. A Boy without a Penis, Christine Gorman, Time, March 24, 1997.
 This is a remarkable account of an infant boy who, due to a freak accident at birth, later had a sex-change operation to become anatomically female. However, in childhood the child rebelled against "her" female qualities and role, and ultimately was changed back,

via surgery, to a male. This brief article highlights some basic nature

versus nurture issues in gender development.

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Topic Guide

This topic guide suggests how the selections in this book relate to topics of traditional concern to students and professionals involved with the study of infant and child development. It is useful for locating articles that relate to each other for reading and research. The guide is arranged alphabetically according to topic. Articles may, of course, treat topics that do not appear in the topic guide. In turn, entries in the topic guide do not necessarily constitute a comprehensive listing of all the contents of each selection. In addition, relevant Web sites, which are annotated on the next two pages, are noted in bold italics under the topic articles.

TOPIC AREA	TREATED IN	TOPIC AREA	TREATED IN
Aggression/Violence	 Politics of Biology Children without Friends Why Spanking Takes the Spunk Out of Kids Why Leave Children with Bad Parents? Violence, Reel to Real Victimization of Children (1, 3, 20, 21, 25, 28) 	Economic Issues/Poverty	 13. Malnutrition, Poverty, and Intellectual Development 23. Day-Care Dilemma 30. Why Leave Children with Bad Parents? 31. Child Labor in Pakistan 36. Get 'em While They're Young (2, 10, 15, 18)
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TOPIC AREA	TREATED IN	TOPIC AREA	TREATED IN
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	Development 18. Early Experience and Emotional Development 37. Boy without a Penis (4, 5, 6, 14, 16, 26)	Self-Esteem/ Self-Control	20. EQ Factor21. Children without Friends27. Why Spanking Takes the Spunk Out of Kids (13, 17, 19, 20, 21)
Peers/Social Skills	 20. EQ Factor 21. Children without Friends 22. Girls and Boys Together but Mostly Apart 26. How Children Learn to Resolve Conflicts in Families (8, 12, 23, 25, 27) 	Socialization	 Moral Power of Good Stories Children without Friends Girls and Boys Together but Mostly Apart Fathers' Time First Born, Later Born How Children Learn to Resolve Conflicts in Families
Personality Development	19. Moral Power of Good Stories20. EQ Factor21. Children without Friends24. Fathers' Time		32. Violence, Reel to Real 33. Get 'em While They're Young (11, 13, 16, 17, 22, 23)
	25. First Born, Later Born 33. Get 'em While They're Young	Television/Media/ Advertising	29. Buried Alive 32. Violence, Reel to Real 33. Get 'em While They're Young



Selected World Wide Web Sites for AE: Child Growth & Development

All of these Web sites are hot-linked through the Annual Editions home page: http://www.dushkin.com/annualeditions (just click on a book). In addition, these sites are referenced by number and appear where relevant in the Topic Guide on the previous two pages.

Some Web sites are continually changing their structure and content, so the information listed may not always be available.

General Sources

- 1. American Academy of Pediatrics-http://www.aap.org/-This organization provides data for optimal physical, mental, and social health for all children.
- 2. CYFERNet-http://www.cyfernet.mes.umn.edu:2400/-The Children, Youth, and Families Education Research Network is sponsored by the Cooperative Extension Service and USDA's Cooperative State Research Education and Extension Service. This site provides practical research-based information in areas including health, child care, family strengths, science, and technology
- 3. National Institute of Child Health and Human Developmenthttp://www.nih.gov/nichd/home2_home.html-The NICHD conducts and supports research on the reproductive, neurobiologic, developmental, and behavioral processes that determine and maintain the health of children, adults, families, and populations.

Conception to Birth

- 4. Babyworld-http://www.babyworld.com-Extensive information on caring for infants can be found at this site. There are also links to numerous other related sites.
- 5. Children's Nutrition Research Center (CNRC)-http://www. bcm.tmc.edu/cnrc/-CNRC, one of six USDA/ARS (Agricultural Research Service) facilities, is dedicated to defining the nutrient needs of healthy children, from conception through adolescence, and pregnant and nursing mothers. The Nutrition and Your Child newsletter is of general interest and can be accessed from this site.
- 6. Zero to Three: National Center for Infants, Toddlers, and Families-http://www.zerotothree.org-This national organization is dedicated solely to infants, toddlers, and their families. It is headed by recognized experts in the field and provides technical assistance to communities, states, and the federal government. The site provides information that the organization gathers and disseminates through its publications.

Cognition, Language, and Learning

7. Educational Resources Information Center (ERIC)-http:// www.ed.gov/pubs/pubdb.html-This Web site is sponsored

- by the U.S. Department of Education and will lead to numerous documents related to elementary and early childhood education, as well as other curriculum topics and issues.
- 8. I Am Your Child-http://iamyourchild.org/-Information regarding early childhood development is provided on this site. Resources for parents and caregivers are provided.
- 9. National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)-http://www.naeyc.org/naeyc/-The National Association for the Education of Young Children provides a useful link to the "parent information" site. A variety of formats, from which viewers are permitted to cut and paste information for newsletters or handouts, is available here. Indexes of the organization's journal Young Children with brief abstracts of the articles are provided.
- 10. Results of NICHD Study of Early Child Care-http://www. nih.gov/nichd/html/news/rel4top.htm—This study indicates that the quality of child care for very young children does matter for their cognitive development and their use of language. Quality child care also leads to better mother-child interaction, the study found.
- 11. Vandergrift's Children's Literature Page-http://www.scils. rutgers.edu/special/kay/childlit.html—This site provides information about children's literature and links to a variety of resources related to literacy for children.
- 12. What Is Project Zero?-http://pzweb.harvard.edu/Left/ PZInfo/GenPZ/GenPZtxt//History.htm—Harvard Project Zero, a research group at the Harvard Graduate School of Education, has investigated the development of learning processes in children and adults for 30 years. Today, Project Zero is building on this research to help create communities of reflective, independent learners; to enhance deep understanding within disciplines; and to promote critical and creative thinking. Project Zero's mission is to understand and enhance learning, thinking, and creativity in the arts and other disciplines for individuals and institutions.

Social and Emotional Development

- 13. Help Children Work with Feelings-http://www.aha4kids. com/index.html-New multimedia materials that deal with emotional intelligence are available at this Web site.
- 14. Max Planck Institute for Psychological Research-http:// www.mpipf-muenchen.mpg.de/BCD/bcd_e.htm-Several behavioral and cognitive development research projects are available on this site.
- 15. National Child Care Information Center (NCCIC)-http:// www.ericps.ed.uiuc.edu/nccic/nccichome.html—Information about a variety of topics related to child care and development is available on this site. Links to the Child Care Bulle-

- tin, which can be read online, and to the ERIC database of online and library-based resources are available.
- 16. Serendip—http://serendip.brynmawr.edu/serendip/—Organized into five subject areas (brain and behavior, complex systems, genes and behavior, science and culture, and science education), Serendip contains interactive exhibits, articles, links to other resources, and a forum area for comments and discussion.

Parenting and Family Issues

- 17. Facts for Families—http://www.aacap.org/web/aacap/factsFam/— The American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry here provides concise, up-to-date information on issues that affect teenagers and their families. Fifty-six fact sheets include issues concerning teenagers, such as coping with life, sad feelings, inability to sleep, getting involved with drugs, or not getting along with family and friends.
- 18. Families and Work Institute—http://www.familiesandworkinst. org—Resources from The Families and Work Institute, which conducts policy research on issues related to the changing workforce and operates a national clearinghouse on work and family life, are provided.
- 19. The National Parent Information Network (NPIN)—http://ericps.ed.uiuc.edu/npin—The National Parent Information Network contains resources related to many of the controversial issues faced by parents raising children in contemporary society. In addition to articles and resources, discussion groups are also available.
- 20. Single Parent Resource—http://www.parentsplace.com/ readroom/spn/articles.html—The Single Parent Resource focuses on issues concerning single parents and their children. Although the articles range from parenting children from infancy through adolescence, most of the articles deal with middle childhood.
- Stepfamily Association of America—http://www.stepfam.
 org/—This Web site is dedicated to educating and supporting stepfamilies and to create a positive family image.

Cultural and Societal Influences

- 22. American Association for Child and Adolescent Psychiatry—
 http://www.aacap.org/factsfam/index.htm—This site is designed to aid in the understanding and treatment of the developmental, behavioral, and mental disorders that could affect children and adolescents. There is a specific link just for families about common childhood problems that may or may not require professional intervention. Information is also available in Spanish and French.
- 23. Ask NOAH About: Mental Health—http://www.noah.cuny. edu/illness/mentalhealth/mental.html—This enormous resource contains information about child and adolescent family problems, mental conditions and disorders, suicide prevention, and much more, all organized in a "clickable" outline form.
- 24. Association to Benefit Children (ABC)—http://www.a-b-c. org/—ABC presents a network of programs that includes child advocacy, education for disabled children, care for HIV-positive children, employment, housing, foster care, and day care.
- 25. Children Now—http://www.childrennow.org/—Children Now focuses on improving conditions for children who are poor or at risk. Articles include information on education, influence of media, health, and security.
- 26. Council for Exceptional Children—http://www.cec.sped. org/—This is the home page for the Council for Exceptional Children, a large professional organization that is dedicated to improving education for children with exceptionalities, students with disabilities, and/or the gifted child. It leads to the ERIC Clearinghouse on disabilities and gifted education and the National Clearinghouse for Professions in Special Education.
- National Black Child Development Institute—http://www. nbcdi.org—Resources for improving the quality of life for African American children through public education programs are provided.
- 28. National Committee to Prevent Child Abuse (NCPCA)—
 http://www.childabuse.org/—Dedicated to their child abuse prevention efforts, the NCPCA provides statistics, parenting tips, chapter data, and other resources at this site.

We highly recommend that you review our Web site for expanded information and our other product lines. We are continually updating and adding links to our Web site in order to offer you the most usable and useful information that will support and expand the value of your Annual Editions. You can reach us at: http://www.dushkin.com/annualeditions/.

Conception to Birth

Prenatal Development (Articles 1-3)
Birth and Babies (Articles 4-5)

Our understanding of conception and prenatal development is not what it used to be. We are now witness to dramatic changes in reproductive technology. Advances in this new "prenatal science" include fertility treatments for couples who have difficulty conceiving and a host of prenatal diagnostic tests, such as amniocentesis and alpha-fetoprotein testing, which assess the well-being of the fetus as well as detect genetic or chromosomal problems. These technological developments are discussed in the articles "Making Babies" and "Waiting Game."

Perhaps the oldest debate in the study of human development is the "nature versus nurture" question. Scientists have moved beyond thinking of development as due to either genetics or environment, now recognizing that nature and nurture interact to shape us. Each human is a biological organism, and each is surrounded, from the moment of conception, by environmental forces. According to "Politics of Biology," recent research highlights the contributions of genes and experience in influencing mental illness, violence, sexual orientation, and alcoholism. This selection is especially valuable because it helps the reader appreciate that findings from the nature/nurture debate both contribute to and reflect the trends of broader societal values and may in turn have ethical, political, legal, and societal consequences.

Students of child development should realize that the classic nature/nurture controversy applies as much to prenatal development as to other stages of childhood. While prenatal development is largely the result of the unfolding of an individual's genetic blueprint, the fetus is also in an environment within the mother's womb. Hence, the fetus is vulnerable to teratogens, hazards from the environment that interfere with normal prenatal development. One potential teratogen is alcohol. Thousands of babies are born every year with fetal alcohol syndrome, a constellation of permanent physical, behavioral, and neurological defects that result from the mother's heavy alcohol use during pregnancy. We are learning more about potential harm to the developing fetus due to increasing rates of maternal use of illegal drugs. As a consequence, pregnant women are being held to more stringent legal standards, culminating in legal battles that pit the rights of pregnant women against the rights of their fetuses.

Our notions of childbirth have themselves evolved throughout history. Although in earlier decades many

women gave birth to their babies at home or in comfortable, natural settings, the vast majority of births in Western societies now occur in hospitals. Some critics claim that childbirth is seen by the medical community not as a natural life event but as a disease; women are often treated during childbirth as passive, immobilized patients, and they are subjected to many specialized tools and surgical techniques. Also, more than one in five births in the United States is now by cesarean section, making it one of the most common surgical procedures in this country. A personal account of the birth of one baby is given in "The Fantastic Voyage of Tanner Roberts," which details, in a contraction-by-contraction analysis, the emotional and technical aspects of childbirth.

In a related theme, "Putting a New Spin on the Birth of Human Birth" provides readers with an anthropological perspective on the possible evolutionary significance of human birth and its relation to neonate head size and development.

Looking Ahead: Challenge Questions

Where do you stand on the nature/nurture issue? Does it comfort you—or unsettle you—to know that the genes you inherited influence your mental health or sexual orientation and so on? Given the information in the article "Politics of Biology," how would you respond to someone who claimed that a person's mental health or sexual orientation is "determined" by their genes?

In light of the vast array of prenatal diagnostics and medical procedures now used, does technology play too great a role in determining who can have children? Defend your answer.

How would you balance the personal wish for a child and the expense and ethical complications of available reproductive technology? Assuming that new procedures continue to be developed, what options might be available to parents in the future?

Labor and delivery represents a momentous occasion for everyone concerned—mother, father, and newborn. Given that women have been giving birth for centuries, do you think the medical community or the public's view of birthing has changed over the years? What suggestions would you have to make the experience of birthing easier?