Maturation Theory

Arnold Gessell
Believed that physical & mental growth is genetically determined from conception.

Growth is *what* happens; maturation is *how* it happens

Ex: how a baby moves into walking not at what age it started walking.

Although maturation determines the sequence of development, the precise age is not exact.

Growth is uneven. Children grow in spurts.
Eight different intelligences

Musical
Bodily-Kinesthetic
Logical-Mathematical
Linguistic
Spatial
Interpersonal
Intrapersonal
Naturalistic
Existential
Humanistic Theory  pg 115

Abraham Maslow studied healthy personalities and theorized that what people need for growth is a hierarch of basic and growth needs.

Attempts to explain how people are motivated.

Centered on people’s needs, goals, and successes.

Self Actualization – is a set of ideas about what people need to become and stay healthy.
Cultural Diversity

- Development can be fully understood in the context of culture
- Know children in their own setting in order to understand them well and be able to teach them.
- Go over global examples on page 116
Key Issues

1. Cultural gaps
language barriers
low expectation of children based on their culture not on actual abilities
child's behavior style is different than of the teachers

standard testing and assessment techniques are applied to cultural groups that are not recognized
Key Issues

2. Update your theory
early theories were based on male white subjects
read studies on ethnic minority children

3. Theories have their limits
consider cultural diversity and individuality
Attachment

A tie that binds people together in space and endures over time
an attached person uses another as safe base to explore their surroundings
attachment behaviors: smiling, eye contact, talking, touching, clinging, crying
we become attached to a mother figure
Attachment

Freud believed that infants become attached to the people who feed them (oral stage).

Erikson believed that attachment is critical in the first years of life (trust vs. mistrust).

Not everyone believes that attachment is so important in later competence and identity.

Ex: German & Japanese babies labeled as avoidant.
Where does failure to attachment come from?
Play

Play is the essence of creativity in children throughout the world.

spontaneous play - unplanned, self-selected activity in which children freely participate.

dramatic play - pretend play

a. superhero play
b. sociodramatic play

both involve imitation and make believe.
Partens social levels of play

• Look at page 121
Conditions for Learning

Learning must be real
Learning must be rewarding
Learning must build on children’s lives
Learning needs a good stage
Discuss in groups

1. What is the value of play?
2. What are some differences between boys and girls?
3. List the order of gender identity.
4. What stage of moral development do young children fall into?
5. What are the 3 conclusions on brain development?
6. What are the conditions for learning?
7. What are the basic tenets on theories of development and learning?