What is "Development?"

What is a Developmental skill?

1. Gradual
2. Cumulative
3. Permanent
4. Transactional
5. Occurs in an Ecosystem
Small Group Discussion
- Identify a skill (e.g., learning to talk) and according to the just mentioned criteria (i.e., gradual, cumulative, permanent, transactional, & occurs in an ecosystem) discuss how it is "developmental."
- Be prepared to share your discussion with rest of the class.

Risks to Development
- Discuss the following "risks."
  - Doing too much for a child.
  - Doing too much to a child.
  - Doing too little for a child.
- Address the importance of assess the environment when identifying a student’s learning challenges.

Risk and Resilience
- Environmental risk factors do not affect all children in the same way.
  - Family resources
  - Social resources
  - Financial resources
  - Personal history
  - Individual traits/characteristics
Theories of Development: What Makes a Good Theory?
- Communicates meaning
  - Can be shared, understood
- Verifiable
  - Can be tested
- Generalizable
  - Can be applied others
- Applied value
  - Guides practice

Key Issues in Human Development
- Is both active and passive.
- Has critical periods.
- Nature (internal) and Nurture (external) factors play a role.

How New Knowledge is Produced: Research Methods
- Undergraduate
  - Consumer of knowledge
- Masters Level
  - Evaluator of knowledge
- Doctoral Level
  - Producer of knowledge
- All graduate level students must understand the basics of research methods.
The Research Process
- Identify a question
- Review available literature
- Develop hypotheses
- Collect data
- Analyze data
- Interpret results

Types of Research
- Qualitative
  - Describes
  - Uses words
  - Open and general
  - Natural and subjective
- Quantitative
  - Measures
  - Uses numbers
  - Closed and specific
  - Artificial
  - Objective

Specific Methods
- Historical
- Ethnographic
- Descriptive
- Correlational
- Group Comparison
  - Ex Post Facto
  - Experiments
  - Quasi Experiments
  - Single Subject
Next Week

- Research what is normal pregnancy, birth, and infancy?
- From independent research write three discussion questions.
- Begin to focus on developmental & health history questionnaire development
  - See the instructor if you would like it to have a special focus, e.g., ADHD, Autism, Dyslexia.