Introduction to Child Development

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CAS 140/L
Jumpstart

Domains of Development
- Physical
- Cognitive
- Language
- Social-Emotional

Physical Development
- Trends
  - Cephalocaudal
  - Proximodistal

[Diagram showing physical development trends from newborn to 25 years]
Physical Development

Trends:
- Specificity
- Integration

Cognitive Foundation

Cognitive sources:
- Exploration and discovery
- Teaching and direction

Most Effective Learning

Already Mastered Possible with Assistance Too Difficult

Preschooler's Thought

- One moment in time “static thinking”
- One aspect of a situation “centration”
- Easily influenced by perception
- Emphasis on concrete stimuli
- Disorganized
### Cognitive Principles
- Children are active learners
- Activities should match development
  - Predictable, age-related sequence
  - Individual differences and needs

### Language
- Misunderstanding of meaning
  - Overextensions
  - Underextensions
- Simplification
- Reception precedes production

### Social-Emotional
- Egocentric
- Unpredictable
  - Egocentric empathy
  - Centration
  - Focus on current situation