

Developmental Characteristics of Infancy Stage

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INFANCY STAGE (0-2 YEARS)

- Age limit of this stage is 0-2 years.
- Rapid physical development.
- *Mental, Emotional Linguistic, Social development* happen but *Moral development* is not seen in this stage.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

❖ Change in Weight:

- Generally 3 kgs weight at the time of birth.
- Within 5 months it increased to 6 kgs.
- Within one year it increases up to 9 kgs and within 2 years it is 12 kgs.

CHANGE IN HEIGHT

- Height depends on heredity.
- Height of the child increased up to 50% within one year and 75% within two years than at the time of birth.

GROWTH OF MUSCLE

- In this stage growth of muscle increases parallel with height and weight of the child.
- There are two types of muscle growth namely –
 - I. **Cephalocaudal Tendency:** Growth of *muscle from head to toe.*

CONTD...

- **Proximodistal Tendency:** Growth of muscle from *middle part of the body to last part of the body*.
- In this stage a child can **shake** their **heads**, **rooting** and **sucking**.
- In this stage they learn to **sit**, **stand** and **walk**.

LINGUISTIC DEVELOPMENT

- Within **two months** of birth development of *cooing*.
- Within **four months** they spell double word like *ba-ba-ba*, *ma-ma-ma* etc. this is called *Babbling stage*.
- They first spell word within **10-12 months**. They can express feeling by *one word* and *sign language*, this is known as *Holophrase*.

CONTD...

- Clearly they can spell any word at the age of **12-18 months**. Word stock increased up to **50**.
- Within **18-24 months** age of a child, the word stock increased to **200** and they can use two words together at this stage, this is known as **Telegraphic Speech**.

COGNITIVE DEVELOPMENT

- During infancy stage varieties of mental development happen. As per **Piaget** major development of this stage are —

I. Reflex Action: Grasping, Sucking etc.

II. Circular Action: *Repetition of a single behavior again and again.* Like *thumb sucking*.

CONTD...

III. Object Permanence: Understanding of *permanent existence of any object*.

❖ **Social Development:**

- According to Erikson, development of *Trust vs Mistrust* (0-1 years of age).
- Development of *Autonomy vs Shame* (1-2 years of age).

EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- At the time of birth a child only have three emotions like *anger, fear and love*.
- During the last phase of infancy stage some new emotions added like *jealous, hate, joy/happiness* etc.

THANK YOU