Growing and Learning

Trace four kinds of development and the importance of early experiences.

P.3.3 "Describe the physical, motor, cognitive, and language development of children, including the importance of critical periods of development."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline an example of each kind of development and label it P for physical, M for motor, C for cognitive, or L for language; then circle phrases that show when early experiences are especially important.

Leo's Changing World

1. At a neighborhood child-care center, Maya watches her nephew Leo change from a newborn into a busy toddler. During his first year, Leo grows longer and heavier, and his muscles strengthen. These are physical changes. His movements change too: he first lifts his head, then sits without support, and later reaches for a spoon. These are motor changes because they involve controlling the body. Leo also learns that a covered toy still exists, a change in thinking called cognitive development. He begins by cooing, then responds to familiar words, early steps in language development.

2. By age three, Leo is taller, and his hands and muscles have grown. He can pedal a tricycle and fasten large buttons, showing stronger control of big and small movements. During play, he sorts pretend groceries by color and uses an empty box as a cash register. Sorting and make-believe show changes in how he thinks, not just in how he moves. He tells Maya, "I need two apples," and asks why the store closes. His longer sentences and questions show language development. Children reach these milestones at different ages, so a single birthday is not a strict deadline.

3. Early experiences also matter because the developing brain is especially responsive at certain times. In a critical period for early visual development, the brain needs usable input from the eyes to build typical sight. If a baby has a cataract that blocks vision, prompt diagnosis and treatment improve the chance of good vision; a long delay can leave lasting difficulties even after the cataract is removed. Language has a longer sensitive period rather than one sudden cutoff: frequent conversation supports learning words and grammar, especially in early childhood. Later learning remains possible, although some skills may be harder to acquire.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How does Leo's development in his first year show the difference between a physical change and a motor change? Give one example of each.

2. Compare one example of Leo's cognitive development as a baby with one example at age three.

3. How does Leo's language change from infancy to age three, and what experience does the passage say supports language learning?

4. Why can delayed cataract treatment affect a baby's sight? How is this visual critical period different from the sensitive period for language?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Invent a child from infancy to preschool age. In five or six sentences, describe one physical, one motor, one cognitive, and one language change, then use an original everyday example to explain how a sensitive period can affect language learning.

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PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline an example of each kind of development and label it P for physical, M for motor, C for cognitive, or L for language; then circle phrases that show when early experiences are especially important. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does Leo's development in his first year show the difference between a physical change and a motor change? Give one example of each.	**Growing longer and heavier is a physical change. Sitting without support is a motor change because it requires control of his body.**
2	Compare one example of Leo's cognitive development as a baby with one example at age three.	**As a baby, Leo learns that a covered toy still exists. At age three, he sorts pretend groceries by color or uses a box as a cash register.**
3	How does Leo's language change from infancy to age three, and what experience does the passage say supports language learning?	**Leo moves from cooing and responding to familiar words to speaking in longer sentences and asking questions. Frequent conversation supports language learning.**
4	Why can delayed cataract treatment affect a baby's sight? How is this visual critical period different from the sensitive period for language?	**The brain needs usable input from the eyes during a critical period to build typical sight, so a long delay can cause lasting difficulties. Language has a longer sensitive period, and learning remains possible later.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

As Nia grows from a baby to a preschooler, her baby teeth come in. She moves from grasping a blanket to hopping on one foot. She learns to count three cups when setting a table. Her babbling becomes a short story about a trip to the park. When her father describes the foods they prepare and listens to her replies, she hears and uses new words. Frequent talk in early childhood supports language learning during a sensitive period, but Nia can keep learning afterward.

Accept other accurate examples from the passage for the short answers. For the open task, look for four distinct kinds of change and an original example that treats a language-sensitive period as an opportunity, not an absolute deadline.