



# The Importance of Experiences in Infancy for Later Learning

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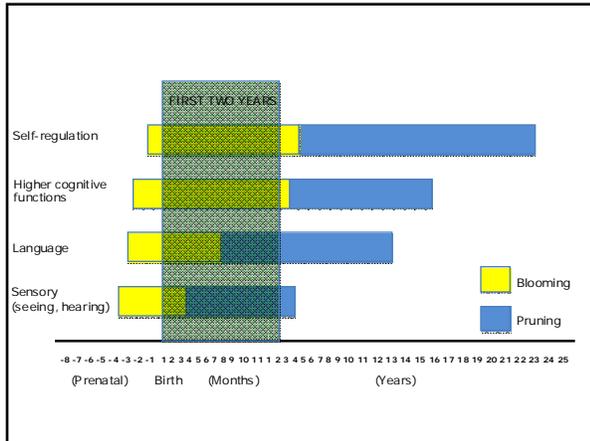
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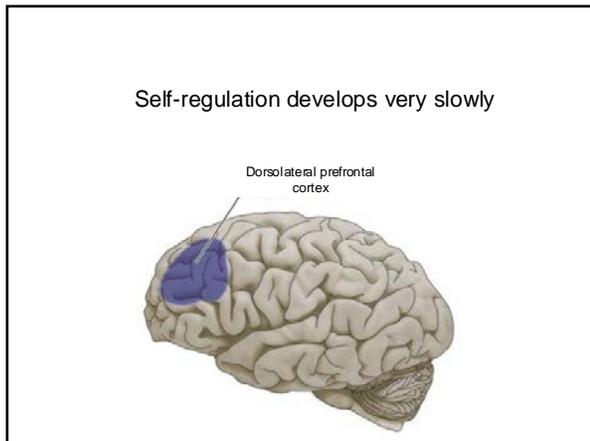
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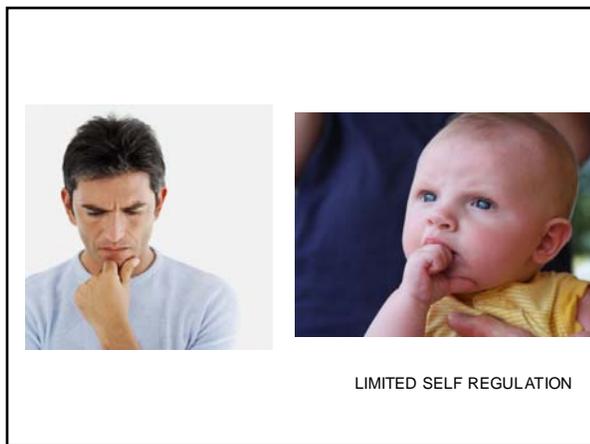
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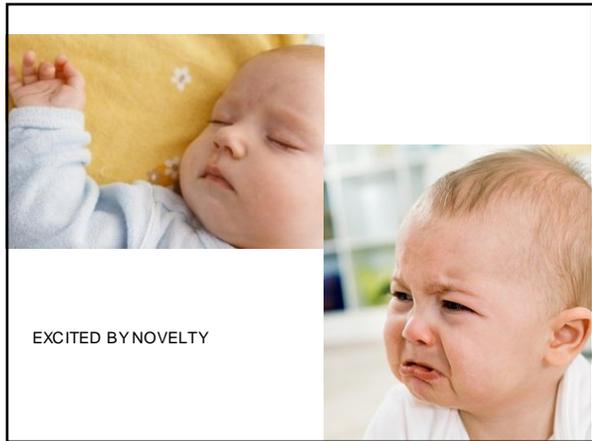
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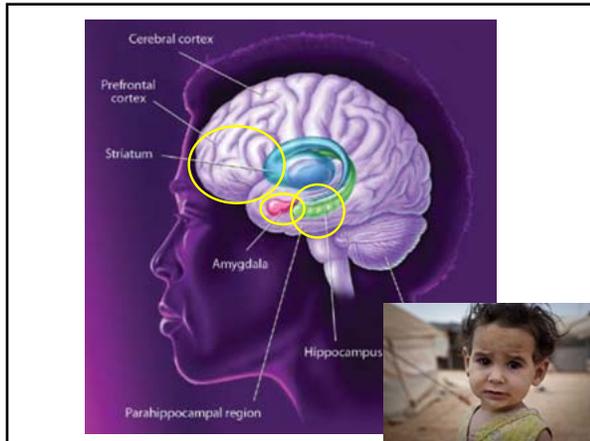
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To summarize . . .  
 Why is babies' thinking different from the thinking of adults?

- self-regulation is limited, so they have poorer control over attention, thinking, behavior, impulses, and emotions
- their minds are excited by novelty (it's why they learn so quickly) -- and so much of the world is new to them!
- they are captivated by immediate experience, and devote less attention to the wider context
- thinking is focused rather than broad
- emotions can motivate learning, but they can easily interfere with it

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What does this mean for us?

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emergent curriculum

discovery-based learning  
inquiry-based learning

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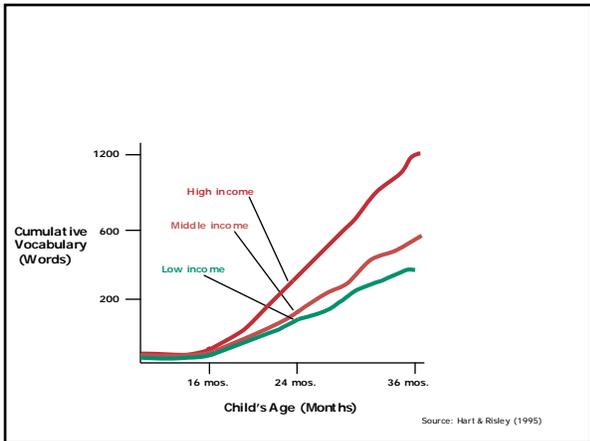
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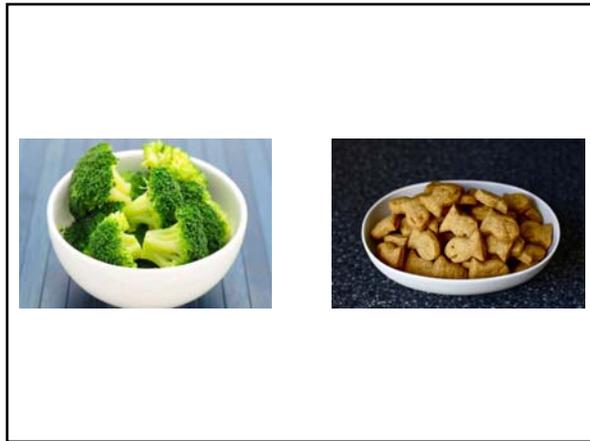
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- Shared experiences that are rich with language and concepts
- Language in the context of warm, responsive social interaction ("serve and return")
- Storybook reading, conversations about the child's experiences and interests, play
- Eliciting the child's language use
- Mind-mindedness – labeling and talking about the child's internal experience: intentions, feelings, goals, thoughts, expectations
- Warm, sensitively responsive care
- Assistance with self-regulation through developmentally appropriate expectations and guidance with transitions
- Supporting self-regulation by structuring the child's experience through your own participation and prompts
- Patience with the young child

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Thanks!

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