Child Development
A Topical Approach

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Preface

Child development is a unique field of study. Unlike other disciplines, each of us has experience with its subject matter in personal ways. It is a discipline that deals not just with ideas and concepts and theories, but one that above all has at its heart the forces that have made each of us who we are.

This text, Child Development: A Topical Approach, seeks to capture the discipline in a way that sparks and nurtures students’ inherent interest in the field. It is meant to excite readers about the field, to draw them into its way of looking at the world, and to shape their understanding of developmental issues. By exposing students to both the current content and the promise inherent in child development, the text is designed to keep interest in the discipline alive long after their formal study of the field has ended.

Child Development: A Topical Approach also addresses two common concerns of course instructors. First, the field of child development is so vast that it is difficult to cover within the confines of a traditional college term. Consequently, many instructors see most child development texts as too long. Second, and more critical, many instructors express the concern that traditional, chronologically based child development books are arranged in a way that made it difficult for students to understand the scope of development within particular topical areas (such as social or personality development across childhood) without skipping from one chapter to another.

Child Development: A Topical Approach addresses both of these concerns. This book is shorter than traditional child development books, and it is arranged in a way that helps students to see the “big picture” of development across the entire span of childhood and adolescence within a specific topical area.

Child Development: A Topical Approach is rich in examples and illustrates the applications that can be derived from the research and theory of child developmentalists. It pays particular attention to the applications that can be drawn from theory and research in the field.

To optimize student learning and to provide instructors with maximum flexibility, the book uses a modular approach. Each chapter is divided into three modules focusing on particular subtopics. Consequently, rather than facing long, potentially daunting chapters, students encounter material that is divided into smaller, more manageable chunks, representing a structure that research long ago found to be optimum for promoting learning.

The modular approach has another advantage: It allows instructors to customize instruction by assigning only those modules that fit their course. Because the modules are self-contained, instructors can pick and choose which modules best contribute to their course. This flexibility allows instructors who wish to highlight a particular topic to do so easily and—equally important—have the option of not including specific modules.

Overview of Child Development: A Topical Approach

Child Development: A Topical Approach provides a broad overview of the field of child development. It covers major topics such as physical development, cognitive development, and social and personality development. In addition, separate chapters focus on language development, intelligence, development of the self, moral development and aggression, gender, relationships, and living in a multicultural world.

The book seeks to accomplish the following four major goals:

• First, the book is designed to provide a broad, balanced overview of the field of child development. It introduces readers to the theories, research, and applications that constitute the discipline, examining both the traditional areas of the field as well as more recent innovations. It pays particular attention to the applications developed by child development
specialists, demonstrating how child developmentalists use theory, research, and applications to help solve significant social problems.

• The second goal of the text is to explicitly tie development to students’ lives. Findings from the study of child development have a significant degree of relevance to students, and this text illustrates how these findings can be applied in a meaningful, practical sense. Applications are presented in a contemporaneous framework, including current news items, timely world events, and contemporary uses of child development that draw readers into the field. Numerous descriptive scenarios and vignettes reflect everyday situations in children’s and adolescents’ lives, explaining how they relate to the field.

• The third goal is to highlight both the commonalities and diversity of today’s multicultural society. Consequently, the book incorporates material relevant to diversity in all its forms—racial, ethnic, gender, sexual orientation, religion, and cultural diversity—throughout every chapter. In addition, every chapter has at least one “Developmental Diversity and Your Life” section. These features explicitly consider how cultural factors relevant to development both unite and diversify our contemporary, global society.

• Finally, the fourth goal is one that is implicit in the other three: making the field of child development engaging, accessible, and interesting to students. Child development is a joy both to study and teach, because so much of it has direct, immediate meaning to our lives. Because all of us are involved in our own developmental paths, we are tied in personal ways to the content areas covered by the book. Child Development: A Topical Approach, then, is meant to engage and nurture this interest, planting a seed that will develop and flourish throughout readers’ lifetimes.

In accomplishing these goals, the book strives to be user-friendly. Written in a direct, conversational voice, it duplicates as much as possible a dialogue between author and student. The text is meant to be understood and mastered on its own by students of every level of interest and motivation. To that end, it includes a variety of pedagogical features that promote mastery of the material and encourage critical thinking.

Child Development: A Topical Approach is meant to be a book that readers will want to keep in their personal libraries, one that they will take off the shelf when considering problems related to that most intriguing of questions: How do children and adolescents come to be the way they are?

Features of Child Development: A Topical Approach

In addition to its modular structure, Child Development: A Topical Approach includes features designed to engage students and help them learn the material effectively. These include:

CHAPTER-OPENING PROLOGUES
Each chapter begins with a short vignette, describing an individual or situation that is relevant to the basic developmental issues being addressed in the chapter.

LOOKING AHEAD SECTIONS
These opening sections orient readers to the topics to be covered, bridging the opening prologue with the remainder of the chapter and providing orienting questions.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES
Every chapter includes sequentially numbered learning objectives, stated as engaging questions and based on Bloom’s taxonomy. They allow students to understand clearly what they are expected to learn. The learning objectives are tied to the Looking Back summary at the end of each chapter and are also keyed to test bank items.

FROM RESEARCH TO PRACTICE
Each chapter includes a box that describes current developmental research or research issues, applied to everyday problems.
DEVELOPMENTAL DIVERSITY AND YOUR LIFE
Every chapter has at least one “Developmental Diversity and Your Life” section incorporated into the text. These sections highlight issues relevant to today’s multicultural society.

ARE YOU AN INFORMED CONSUMER OF DEVELOPMENT?
Every chapter includes information on specific uses that can be derived from research conducted by developmental investigators.

NEUROSCIENCE AND DEVELOPMENT
To illustrate the influence of neuroscience throughout the field of child development, most chapters include a box presenting the latest neuroscientific advances and their impact on our understanding of child development.

CAREERS IN CHILD DEVELOPMENT
Many chapters include an interview with a person working in a field that uses the findings of child and adolescent development. Among those interviewed are a counselor for a treatment center serving teenagers confronting substance abuse, a childcare provider, a neonatal nurse, and a preschool teacher.

FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF …
These questions, interspersed throughout the margins of each chapter, ask students to take the perspective of someone working in an occupation that relies on findings of child development, including the fields of health care, education, and social work.

THE CASE OF …
Every chapter includes a case study. Case studies describe an intriguing situation related to the topics discussed in the chapter, and they end by asking students questions designed to evoke critical thinking about the case and the chapter content.

REVIEW, CHECK, AND APPLY SECTIONS
Interspersed throughout each chapter are short recaps of the chapters’ main points, followed by questions designed to provoke mastery of the material and critical thinking.

RUNNING GLOSSARY
Key terms are defined in the margins of the page on which the term is presented.

END-OF-CHAPTER MATERIAL
Each chapter ends with an Epilogue that refers back to the opening Prologue, a summary, and a list of key terms and concepts. This material is designed to help students study and retain the information in the chapter.

Finally, in addition to the features described above, Child Development: A Topical Approach provides complete integration between the book and a huge array of digital media in MyPsychLab, comprising online electronic exercises, videos, assessments, and literally hundreds of activities that extend the text and make concepts come alive. The online material is referenced throughout the book in a way meant to entice students to go online and make use of the electronic materials that will help them understand the material in the book more deeply.

I am very excited about this book. I believe its topical approach, length, modular structure and other features, and media and text integration presents the material in a highly effective way and will help students learn it. Just as important, I hope the book will spark and nurture students’ interest in the field of child development, drawing them into its way of looking at the world, building their understanding of developmental issues, and showing them how the field can have a significant impact on their own and others’ lives.

Ancillaries
Child Development: A Topical Approach is accompanied by a superb set of teaching and learning materials.

Supplements for the Instructor
chapter outlines and lecture notes, lecture suggestions and discussion topics, class activities, demonstrations, and assignments, out-of-class assignments and projects, supplemental reading lists, multimedia/video resources, and handouts.

The Instructor’s Resource Manual will be available for download via the Pearson Instructor’s Resource Center (www.pearsonhighered.com) or on the MyPsychLab® platform (www.mypsychlab.com).

• Video Enhanced PowerPoint Slides. These slides, available on the Instructor’s Resource DVD (ISBN 0205947972), bring the Feldman design right into the classroom, drawing students into the lecture and providing wonderful interactive activities, visuals, and videos.

• PowerPoint Lecture Slides (ISBN: 0205948219). The lecture slides provide an active format for presenting concepts from each chapter and feature prominent figures and tables from the text. The PowerPoint Lecture Slides are available for download via the Pearson Instructor’s Resource Center (www.pearsonhighered.com) or on the MyPsychLab® platform (www.mypsychlab.com).

• Test Item File (ISBN: 020592350X). The test bank contains more than 3,000 multiple-choice, true/false, and essay questions, each referenced to the relevant page in the textbook and given a rationale explaining the correct answer. Each question was accuracy checked to ensure that the correct answer was marked and the page reference was accurate. An additional feature of the test bank is the identification of each question as factual, conceptual, or applied. This allows professors to customize their tests and to ensure a balance of question types. Each chapter of the test item file begins with the Total Assessment Guide: an easy-to-reference grid that makes creating tests easier by organizing the test questions by text section, question type, and whether it is factual, conceptual, or applied.

• MyTest (ISBN: 0205948200). The test item file comes with the Pearson MyTest, a powerful assessment generation program that helps instructors easily create and print quizzes and exams. Questions and tests can be authored online, allowing instructors ultimate flexibility and the ability to efficiently manage assessments anytime, anywhere. For more information, go to www.PearsonMyTest.com.

• MyVirtualChild is an interactive simulation that allows students to raise a child from birth to age 18 and monitor the effects of their parenting decisions over time. MyVirtualChild helps students think critically as they apply their course work to the practical experiences of raising a virtual child. MyVirtualChild is available in MyPsychLab or standalone. To package the student text with MyVirtualChild use ISBN 0205941931.

• MyPsychLab (ISBN: 0205948855). Available at www.mypsychlab.com, this learning and assessment tool can be used to supplement a traditional lecture course or to administer a course entirely online. Instructors decide the extent of integration—from independent self-assessment for students to total course management. Students benefit from an easy-to-use site where they can test themselves on key content, track their progress, and use individually tailored study plans. MyPsychLab is an all-inclusive tool, including a Pearson eText, plus teaching and learning resources organized by chapter in the form of videos, simulations, animations, assessments, and other tools to engage students and reinforce learning. Fully customizable and easy to use, MyPsychLab meets the individual teaching and learning needs of every instructor and every student. To package MyPsychLab with the student text, use ISBN 0205959881.

• MyClassPrep. Available for instructors within MyPsychLab, this exciting instructor resource makes lecture preparation easier and less time consuming. MyClassPrep collects the best class preparation resources—art and figures from our leading texts, videos, lecture activities, classroom activities, demonstrations, and much more—in one convenient online destination. You can search through MyClassPrep’s extensive database of tools by content topic or by content type. You can select resources appropriate for your lecture, many of which can be downloaded directly; or you can build your own folder of resources and present from within MyClassPrep.
Video Resources for Instructors

• The Development Video Series in MyPsychLab engages students and brings to life a wide range of topics spanning prenatal through the end of the lifespan. New international videos shot on location allow students to observe similarities and differences in human development across various cultures.


Print and Media Supplements for the Student

• MyPsychLab. With this exciting new tool students are able to self-assess using embedded diagnostic tests and instantly view results along with a customized study plan. The customized study plan will focus on the student’s strengths and weaknesses, based on the results of the diagnostic testing, and present a list of activities and resources for review and remediation, organized by chapter section. Some study resources intended for use with portable electronic devices are made available exclusively through the MyPsychLab, such as key terms flashcards and video clips. Students will be able to quickly and easily analyze their own comprehension level of the course material, and study more efficiently, leading to exceptional exam results! An access code is required and can be purchased at www.pearsonhighered.com or at www.mypsychlab.com.

• CourseSmart eTextbook (ISBN: 0205948227). CourseSmart offers students an online subscription to Child Development: A Topical Approach, Second Edition, at up to 60% savings. With the CourseSmart eTextbook, students can search the text, make notes online, print out reading assignments that incorporate lecture notes, and bookmark important passages. Ask your Pearson sales representative for details or visit www.coursesmart.com.

Supplementary Texts

Contact your Pearson representative to package any of these supplementary texts with Child Development: A Topical Approach.

• Current Directions in Developmental Psychology (ISBN: 0205597505). Readings from the American Psychological Society. This exciting reader includes more than 20 articles that have been carefully selected for the undergraduate audience, and taken from the accessible Current Directions in Psychological Science journal. These timely, cutting-edge articles allow instructors to bring their students a real-world perspective about today’s most current and pressing issues in psychology. Discounted when packaged with this text for college adoptions.

• Twenty Studies That Revolutionized Child Psychology by Wallace E. Dixon Jr. (ISBN: 0205948030). The new edition of this brief text presents the seminal research studies that have shaped modern developmental psychology. It provides an overview of the environment that gave rise to each study, its experimental design, its findings, and its impact on current thinking in the discipline.


• The Psychology Major: Careers and Strategies for Success (ISBN: 0205684688). Written by Eric Landrum (Idaho State University), Stephen Davis (Emporia State University), and Terri Landrum (Idaho State University), this 160-page paperback provides valuable information on career options available to psychology majors, tips for improving academic performance, and a guide to the APA style of research reporting.
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Professor Feldman loves music, is an enthusiastic pianist, and enjoys cooking and traveling. He has three children, two young grandsons, and he and his wife, a psychologist, live in western Massachusetts in a home overlooking the Holyoke mountain range.