

Belli HEC 226 Assignment 1: Influences on Early Development

Assignment Outcomes

Upon completing this assignment, students will be able to:

- Identify theories of development in infancy and toddlerhood
- Explain the role of caregivers in a child's early development
- Discuss the diverse approaches and cultural influences in development and parenting
- Analyze how environment and social contexts impact access to services and life outcomes

Assignment Introduction

For your first major assignment, Influences on Early Development, you will review the course readings, videos, and discussions from weeks 1-4 to analyze how different factors, experiences, and contexts influence early development from infancy through toddlerhood. The first three years of life are marked by intense growth and skill building.

Additionally, you will also think about your own experiences growing up and make connections to your development and the information presented in the course.

Assignment Prompts and Directions

Writing Your Report:

- Your paper should be between 4-6 pages long, double-spaced, not including the cover or reference page.
- Organize your paper by including the cover page first and then your written response to the questions in the order listed below. Each section should have a heading name.
- For full credit, make sure to connect your responses to the information presented in the textbook and course videos. Be sure to cite your resources within each section of your report using APA formatting.

Please write up responses to the questions listed below using the format described.

Cover Page

Please add a cover-page to your paper that follows APA guidelines.

Heading 1: The Role of Caregivers and Cultural Influences in Parenting

"Assignment 1: Influences on Early Development" by Christina Belli for [Open Oregon Educational Resources](#) is licensed [CC BY-NC-SA](#).

1. In your own words, explain the role of caregivers in the developmental process from birth through 3 years old. How can caregivers support or hinder development? How does culture influence the diverse nature of parenting? What impact did your caregivers have on your early development?

Heading 2: Interactions that Support Development

2. Using the early childhood websites presented in the weekly content, identify three activities or behaviors that caregivers can engage in to support their child's development. Describe the interactions in a few sentences. How does this activity or interaction support development (please note the domain: cognitive, language, physical, social emotional)? Be sure to include activities for both infants and toddlers in your response and note which website the activity came from. This section should include citations from the early childhood websites in APA format.

Heading 3: Theories of Development

3. Of all the theories presented thus far, which one do you think best describes the dynamic nature of child development? Be sure to name the theory, explain it, and describe why you chose it. Give an example on how this theory can be applied to a specific domain or skill in an infant or toddler's development. This section should include 1-2 citations in APA format.

Heading 4: Environmental and Social Factors

4. How does the environment and social context in which an infant and toddler is born into impact their development over time? Think about the factors that provide access to or barriers against services and opportunities. What environmental or social factors do you think played an important role in your development growing up? Use the case studies, readings, and videos to provide examples and to explain your thoughts. This section should include 1-2 citations in APA format.

Heading 5: Reflection

5. How did this assignment deepen your understanding of the developmental process and the role of caregivers, the environment, and social contexts? How might this knowledge help you in your life and career? Did you learn something new by completing this assignment or was prior knowledge reinforced? Please describe.

Heading 6: References

Please provide a reference page, in APA format, for all references used.