

INFANT INTERVIEW & REFLECTION ASSIGNMENTS

In this class, we will learn primarily about infant development *in general*—we will discuss the average ages infants meet certain milestones, what typical abilities infants have at different stages, what the normative course of development is, etc. But development for each individual infant differs, as we are all influenced by our own genetic tendencies, our family, our culture, and other aspects of our developmental context. For this assignment, you will be focusing on the development of one infant in particular: at 2 points during the term, you will conduct interviews with a parent (or parents) about their child's development, and then will relate this information to course content—analyzing where the infant's development aligns with what we've learned, and when (and why) it may not.

Who can you interview for this assignment? Any parent you wish! One possibility is your own parent(s)—you can use yourself as the target infant! You can also interview a friend or family member who has had a child (you probably want the child to now be at least 2/3 years; older is fine). You are welcome to use the same child/parent for your 2 assignments, or different children/parents for each. If you are having trouble finding a parent to interview, contact Lily or a TA at least 2 weeks in advance of the submission deadline.

Based on your interview, you will write and submit a 600-900 word reflection. You do not need to submit the transcript of your interview!

Your reflection will have 3 components:

1. Discuss one specific example where the infant's development aligns with developmental theory or research.

In this section, you should:

- *Describe what has been proposed by theory/research. Describe what is typically seen (or hypothesized) in infants. Cite the text/lecture, and outside sources if used (outside sources are not necessary, but if you refer to research not covered in class/text, you should include a citation/reference).*
 - *For a very strong reflection, think about how to deepen your ideas—go beyond just discussing milestones (ie, when children do X skill) and consider theories of how/why children are developing in such a way.*
- *Discuss how the development of your target infant was similar to the above theory/research.*

This aspect of your reflection should be around 100-200 words.

2. Discuss one specific example where the infant's development does not align with developmental theory or research. Provide a brief analysis of why you think the infants'

development differed. For a strong analysis, support your explanation with research (including citations).

In this section, you should:

- *Describe what has been proposed by theory/research. Describe what is typically seen (or hypothesized) in infants. Cite the text/lecture, and outside sources if used (outside sources are not necessary, but if you refer to research not covered in class/text, you should include the citation).*
 - *For a very strong reflection, think about how to deepen your ideas—go beyond just discussing milestones (ie, when children do X skill) and consider theories of how/why children are developing in such a way.*
- *Discuss how the development of your target infant was different to the above theory/research.*
- *Explain why you think your target infants' development differed—this could be due to culture, differences in parenting, differences in environment, differences in genetic/biological factors, etc.! For a very strong reflection, try to support your argument with research— use what has been found this can be from research covered in class or in outside sources.*
 - *Note that we're not expecting you to prove your argument fully! You can use what has been found for other related aspects of development to make informed hypotheses to explain the differences observed.*

This aspect of your reflection should be around 200-300 words.

3. Based on your interview, provide one theory or idea you have about infant development that could be tested through a research study. Describe how you would design a research study to investigate your idea—what methodology would you use? What are the limitations of this methodology?

In this section, you should:

- *Identify one question that came up in the course of your interview. This can follow from the above example where the infants' development did not align with theory/research, or can be another idea discussed with the parent.*
- *Summarize how you would methodologically test this question. Be specific in the method you would use with infants—for example, you might discuss naturalistic observation, a preferential looking study, a habituation study, a violation of expectation study, etc. Also be practical—consider what infants are able to do at the age(s) you propose studying!*
- *For a very strong reflection, discuss the limitations of your method. What would be alternative possible explanations for possible results? What confounds might emerge? What methodological challenges might occur? No method is perfect—especially with infants—so there will always be limitations!*

- *Note that your study should be relevant to infancy and/or early development. While you may study the impact of early years later in life, the focus should not be on later development, but within the time period of conception through 3 years.*

This aspect of your reflection should be around 300-400 words.

Finally, provide an APA-style reference section. Note that the format of the whole document does not need to be in APA style, just the citations/references! In your reference section, you may cite lecture, the textbook, and/or outside sources. Your reference section is not included in your word count.

- To cite lecture, you can simply use the format of (Lecture, Date). We like this informal format as it allows us to be able to check your information easily! Be sure to include the citation both in-text and in the references section.
- To cite the textbook and/or any other sources, use a proper APA citation. A good guide to APA citation and referencing can be found at https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/apa_style/apa_formatting_and_style_guide/reference_list_basic_rules.html

**600-900 words; typed, size 12 font.
Submit on Canvas.**

Submit 2 of the 5 possible topics:

- Prenatal & Newborn Development: due October 15 @ 11:59pm
- Perceptual & Motor Development: due October 22 @ 11:59pm
 - Language Development: due October 29 @ 11:59pm
 - Cognitive Development: due November 19 @ 11:59pm
 - Social Development: due November 26 @ 11:59pm

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	Exceeds Expectations (100%)	Meets Expectations (75%)	Below Expectations (50%)	Missing (0)
Development Aligns (2)		Describes an area of development in which the infant aligns with research findings or theory. A clear description is provided of the relevant aspects of the infant's development as well as the research findings/theory.		
Development Does Not Align (3)		Describes an area of development in which the infant does not align with research findings or theory. A clear description is provided of the relevant aspects of the infant's development, as well as the research findings/theory. A clear explanation is provided for why the infant's development does not match research/theory.		
Research Study Idea (3)		Provides an idea about development inspired by their interview, and an explanation of how this idea could be tested through research. Description of research study is well-designed, practical, and follows logically from the writer's idea about development.		

Writing/Organization (1)		Writing has a clear purpose, and information is well organized. Grammatical and lexical choices represent content. Conventions of punctuation, capitalization, and spelling are followed. Adheres to the word limit.		
Citation & Referencing (1)		Connections to course content and/or published research are cited using APA style, with few errors. Includes references for all in-text citations.		