



"VAH Sample Question Library"

DISCOVERY LEARNING ASSIGNMENT

Discovery Learning Assignment ~ Prenatal – 2½ years ~ 20%

Purpose: to offer students an opportunity to engage in thoughtful reflections about growth and development while engaging in preliminary research to gather knowledge and skills relevant to course content.

Rationale: as a professional you will use critical thinking and systems thinking skills that will support and/or challenge your views, knowledge and skills

For this assignment, you will reflect on any personal experience and initiate conversations with others as you explore growth and development during the gestational period of an infant up to 2yrs old. Begin to reflect on all that you know (including previous and present academic courses) or have observed in children based on your personal and professional experiences, and discuss growth and development as it related to the child from birth - 2 years. Consider your own childhood based on discussions with anyone who may remember your growth and development and compare what you discovered about yourself with your research findings.

Use the course learning outcomes, your text book and suggested considerations to guide your thoughts in preparing your written reflections.

Course Learning Outcomes to guide your reflections are:

- Apply the principles of development to inform professional practice
- Examine the importance of context as it relates to learning and development and how children's behaviour is understood to support individual children's abilities, interests and needs
- Use the milestones/stages of development to guide professional practice
- Examine children's knowledge, skills, and interests to design responsive, inclusive play-based early learning experiences
- Examine professional behaviours that support the development of individuals to support diverse equitable learning environments
- Assess the impact of brain research to facilitate children's learning and development

Considerations to guide your reflections:

1. Based on your exploration and conversations, what do you know or discovered about a parent's expectations for the unborn child and how does expectations influence behaviours during the gestational period including choices about the delivery experience at birth (Discuss maternal factors [e.g., knowledge, skills, demographic, medical/health, and behavioural patterns] that likely influenced a baby's health during pregnancy and at birth).
2. Explore what is as well as the value of an APGAR test and how the results impact immediate care for an infant? Create a glossary of terms such as pre-term, low birth weight, or small-for-gestational age and other terms that are new or repetitive and you believe would become part of your professional language... relevant to this assignment...
3. Discuss an infant's reflexes explaining what this tells you about brain development as well as the value of reflexes. Explain all the reflexes you found and discuss your experiences with these (ask yourself if you knew, noticed or understood these before your research)
4. Define gross-motor and fine-motor development and give multiple examples of each. How do researchers today view the sequence of motor development? Describe what this would mean for you as a professional to stimulate or maintain gross and fine motor skills in your child. Describe how cultural variations in infant-rearing practices affect/impact/influence motor development.
5. Discuss memory skills, language and comprehension? What would you do to support/stimulate/enhance and evaluate cognitive skills in infant-toddler (specifically memory, language and comprehension skills)?
6. What have you discovered while completing this assignment and how will this information inform your professional practice.