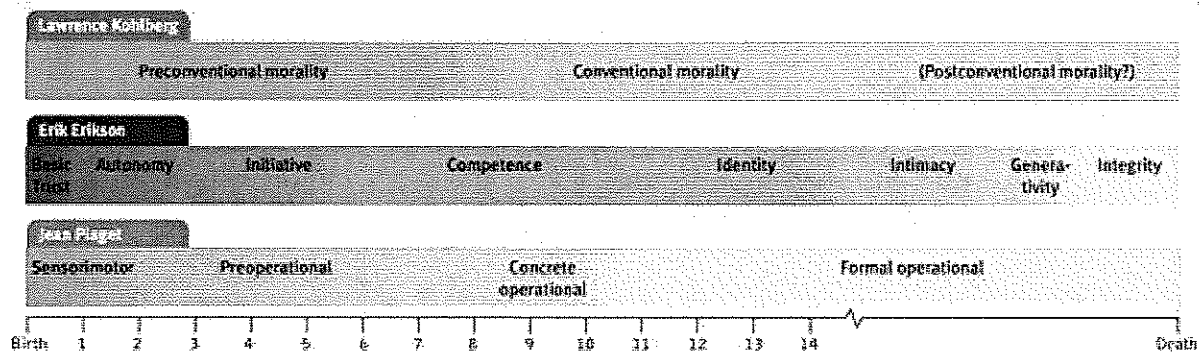


MODULE 45 DEVELOPMENTAL ISSUES, PRENATAL DEVELOPMENT, AND THE NEWBORN

DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY'S MAJOR ISSUES

- **DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY** examines our physical, cognitive, and social development across the life span, with a focus on three major issues: 1. Nature and nurture 2. Continuity and stages and 3. Stability and change.
- Genes predispose both our shared humanity and our individual differences. Our experiences also form us and the interaction is known as the biological, psychological, and social-cultural.



- Life requires both stability and change. Stability provides our identity.

PRENATAL DEVELOPMENT AND THE NEWBORN

- **ZYGOTES** is the fertilized egg; it enters a 2-week period of rapid cell division and develops into an embryo. The zygote's inner cells become the **EMBRYO** and the outer cells become the placenta. By 9 weeks after conception, an embryo looks unmistakably human and is known as a **FETUS**. It is found that the learning of language initially starts in the womb.
- Sounds are not the only stimuli fetuses are exposed to in the womb. **TERATOGENS**, agents such as viruses and drugs, can damage an embryo or fetus. Alcohol is a teratogen. **FETAL ALCOHOL SYNDROME** (FAS) is the physical and cognitive abnormalities in children caused by a pregnant woman's heavy drinking. In severe cases, signs include a small, out-of-proportion head and abnormal facial features.
- As a newborn, you come equipped with automatic reflex responses ideally suited for our survival. The **ROOTING REFLEX** is when a baby automatically reflexes when touched near the mouth to opening in search for a nipple.
- **HABITUATION** is the decreasing responsiveness with repeated stimulation. As infants gain familiarity with repeated exposure to a visual stimulus, their interest wanes and they look away sooner.