1. **-**Sigmund Freud: Freud believed that personality develops through a series of stages. Emotional experiences in childhood have profound effects on a person as an adult. The idea that early experiences affect adult life has profound importance for anyone caring for a child.
2. Maria Montessori: Montessori stressed that children learn by using their senses and that they learn best by pursuing their interests. Children need to be given objects to manipulate so they can exercise their sensory learning.
3. **-**Arnold Gesell: Gesell developed basic information about the order in which children master various skills and the typical rate of this development. Parents and other caregivers need to be aware of the standard course of development. Often Gesell tests are still used to determine readiness for kindergarten.
4. **-**Jean Piaget: Piaget was the first to study children in a scientific way. Focused on how children learned. He said that children go through four stages of thinking that shape how they see and learn about the world. Children should be given learning tasks that are suitable for their stage of thinking.
5. **-**Lev Vygotsky: Vygotsky believed that both biological development and cultural experiences influenced children’s ability to think and learn. He said social contact was essential to intellectual development. He also talked about scaffolding (the support given to a building as it is being built) Children should have many opportunities for social interaction to develop intellectually.
6. **-**Erik Erikson: Erikson, like Freud, said personality develops through stages. He thought that each stage includes a unique psychological crisis. If that crisis is met in a positive way the individual develops normally. Parents and other caregivers must be aware of a child’s need at a particular stage and be sensitive to the child’s need at that stage.
7. **-**B.F. Skinner: Skinner argued that when a child’s action repeatedly brings positive effects, it will be repeated and learned. When negative results repeatedly occur, the child will eventually stop the action. Parents and other caregivers can use rewards and punishments to try to influence a child’s behavior.
8. **-**Abraham Maslow: Maslow believed in a pyramid-shaped Hierarchy of Needs. He said that for personal growth needs must be met in order: physiological, safety, love and belonging, and self-esteem. Self-actualization is the highest. To reach their full potential in life, children’s needs must be met sequentially, moving them up the pyramid.
9. **-**Albert Bandura: Bandura said that children learn by modeling. He disagreed with Skinner. He pointed out that although the environment shaped behavior, behavior also affects the environment. Since children learn by modeling, parents and caregivers must provide good examples.
10. **-**Robert Coles: Coles studied children’s moral development. He stresses the important role that parents and other caregivers play by the examples they set. For children to adopt moral learning, parents must show moral behavior. Coles was greatly impacted by racism in the South during the 1960’s
11. **-**John Bowlby: Bowlby disagreed with Freud. Bowlby researched mother child attachments. He felt there was an emotional bond hard wired into the brain of the child and the mother. He offered proof of the devastating affects upon the child when this connection was not made.
12. **-**Benjamin Spock: Spock was a pediatrician who thought that parenting should be filled with common sense. He listened to parents and encouraged them to trust themselves. He encouraged flexibility with moderation. Parents were warned to not be too easy on their children and to try different things and to listen to their hearts.
13. **-**Diana Baumrind: Baumrind researched parenting styles and family dynamics. She is most noted for identifying three categories of parenting styles: authoritarian, permissive, or authoritative (democratic). She encouraged parents to show concern for their children, set rules, listen to the children, and to show affection.
14. **-**Urie Bronfenbrenner: Bronfenbrenner thought children are surrounded by many different layers or rings of people. These rings influence how a child develops. Each ring impacts how a child will or won’t grow. The first ring is family. The second is community. The third ring is culture and values.
15. **-**T. Berry Brazelton: Brazelton taught that parents need to understand individual differences in children and that family life styles are changing. He taught a concept called touch points. Touch points are predictable times that occur in a child just before a growth spurt. Parents can be better aware and prepared for these normal growth spurts.