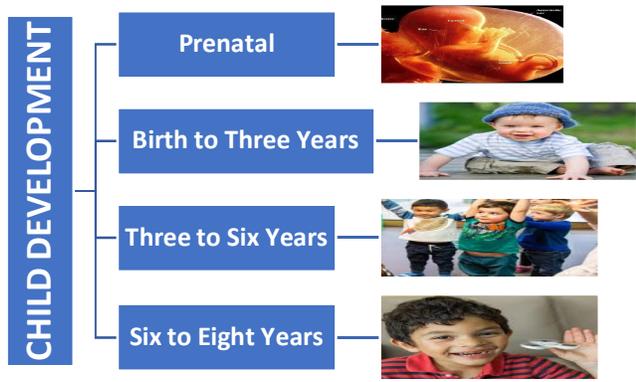


Lesson No 9 **Stages of Child Development:**
 ✚ **Three to Six Years**
 ✚ **Six to Eight Years**

SUMMARY

In the last lesson, you have learnt about the journey of a growing foetus, birth, and infancy. You have also understood about the developmental path and milestones from birth to three years.



In this lesson, you learnt about the pattern of development in different domains during the preschool stage (three to six years) and the early primary stage (six to eight years).

DEVELOPMENT OF CHILDREN DURING AGES THREE TO SIX YEARS
Build Your Understanding

- ✚ As children reach the age of bracket of three to six years, they get ready to be placed in preschools; known as preschool stage.
- ✚ Growth in three to six years is slow than infants but their growth is rather steady.

Physical-Motor Development

Physical Development

- ✚ Gains about four to five pounds per year
- ✚ Grows approximately two to three inches per year
- ✚ Muscular and skeletal growth progresses

Motor Development

- ✚ growing control and independence on their bodies in everyday tasks

Gross Motor Skills

- ✚ More skilled at running, jumping, throwing, kicking
- ✚ Catching a bounced ball
- ✚ Pedalling a tricycle at around age three
- ✚ Becomes able to steer well at around age four
- ✚ Doing a heel-to-toe walk at around age five years

Fine Motor Skills

- ✚ Drawing a circle, square, triangle
- ✚ Self-dressing with supervision
- ✚ Putting on clothes properly
- ✚ Managing a spoon and fork neatly while eating

Socio-Emotional Development

Emotional Development

- ✚ Understands their own emotions
- ✚ Talking about one's feelings and emotions
- ✚ Complex emotions such as guilt, shame and pride emerge

Social Development

- ✚ Describing oneself
- ✚ Emerging concept of self
- ✚ Start playing games with rules
- ✚ Able to cooperate better with peers
- ✚ Mention the achievements of these ages
- ✚ Display initiative, curiosity, and exploration

Cognitive Development

- ✚ Develops their ability to engage in **symbolic thought**.
- ✚ Becomes better at understanding **spatial relationships**.
- ✚ Able to think about causes of familiar events.
- ✚ Identifies similarities and differences in objects
- ✚ develops a better understanding of identities
- ✚ Develops their own perspective and imagined things from their own viewpoint known as egocentrism

Language Development, Communication and Emergent Literacy

Pre-schoolers are full of questions. Asking questions is not merely a function of growing cognitive abilities but is also made possible by growing language competencies that children acquire -

- ✚ Vocabulary of preschool children expands
- ✚ Use of pronouns and prepositions appropriately
- ✚ Able to combine two to three words into sentences
- ✚ Awareness of the rules to form sentences.
- ✚ Become competent in pragmatics, i.e. the practical usage of language.
- ✚ Become skilled with the social side of language.
- ✚ Responding to “why” questions

DEVELOPMENT OF CHILDREN DURING AGES SIX TO EIGHT YEARS

Build Your Understanding

- ✚ As children reach the age range of six to eight years, they are considered to be in the Early Primary stage.
- ✚ Physical, social, and cognitive skills develop rapidly at this time.

Physical-Motor Development	Socio-Emotional Development	Cognitive Development	Language Development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Grow about one to three inches per year ✚ Slow and consistent growth ✚ Muscle mass and strength improves ✚ ‘Baby fat’ decreases ✚ Muscle tone improves ✚ Control over body movements increases 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Developing sense of right and wrong ✚ Wants emotional freedom and space from parents ✚ Becomes better at controlling and concealing feelings ✚ Begins to form a broader self-concept based on recognition of one’s strengths and weaknesses, especially regarding social, academic, and athletic skills ✚ Sustains peer group interactions and friendships 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Ability to describe experiences and talk about thoughts ✚ Ability to focus on the past and future as well as the present ✚ Increased attention span and develops selective attention ✚ Plans ahead ✚ Questions based on observation and anticipation of events ✚ Ability to read and write and to acquire information through the media 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Comprehension and use of language become more sophisticated ✚ Share opinions in clear speech ✚ Improved conversational and narrative skills ✚ Tries to visualise what is being described ✚ Invents new words and phrases

IMPORTANCE OF PLAY DURING EARLY CHILDHOOD

Build Your Understanding

- ✚ Play offers many valuable opportunities to children that contribute to their development and learning.
- ✚ Play can support learning across physical, social emotional and cognitive areas of development.
- ✚ It also increases their social competence and emotional maturity.

ROLE OF PLAY IN EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT	SIGNIFICANCE OF PLAY IN PROMOTING HOLISTIC DEVELOPMENT			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Play is learning in itself. ✚ Lays the foundation for literacy. ✚ Gives opportunity to choose ✚ Gives space to practice physical movement ✚ Can test their own limits 	Physical-Motor Development	Socio-Emotional Development	Cognitive Development	Language Development
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ contribute to children's fine and gross motor development ✚ strengthens their smaller and larger motor skills ✚ build stamina and strength 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ increase their social competence and emotional maturity ✚ fosters self-esteem ✚ make them feel new emotions ✚ learn how to cope with feelings ✚ increase concentration and cooperation with others 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ learn essential concepts such as counting, colors, and problem solving through play ✚ Improves thinking and reasoning skills 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Play is their arena for experimenting with and coming to understand words, syllables, sounds, and grammatical structure.

EVALUATE YOURSELF

- Q1. Explain the developmental characteristics and needs of three to six year old child.
- Q2. Describe the pattern of child development in different areas during six to eight years.

PRACTICE YOUR KNOWLEDGE

Observe different children playing in your neighborhood and prepare a write-up on how play during early childhood is important in promoting holistic development among children.