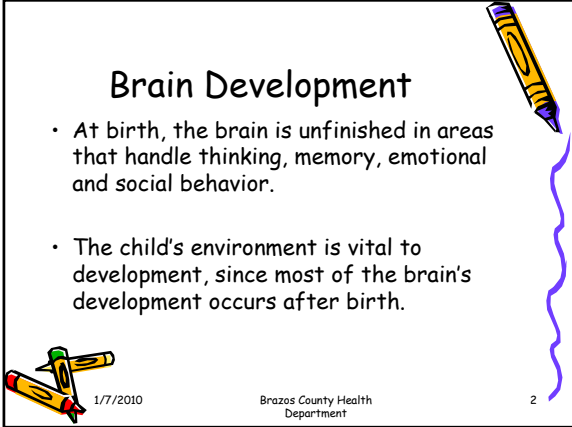


## Early Childhood Brain Development

The 0-2 Years Old

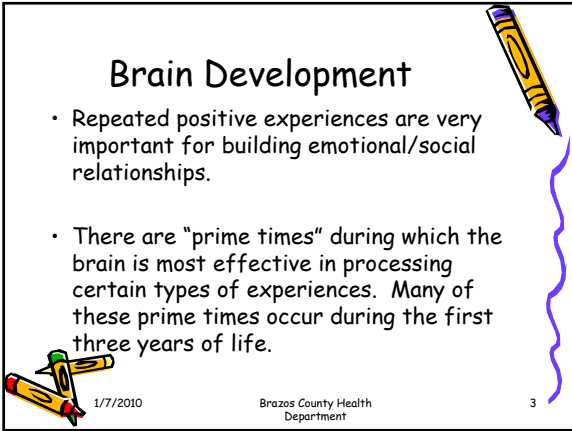
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## Brain Development

- At birth, the brain is unfinished in areas that handle thinking, memory, emotional and social behavior.
- The child's environment is vital to development, since most of the brain's development occurs after birth.

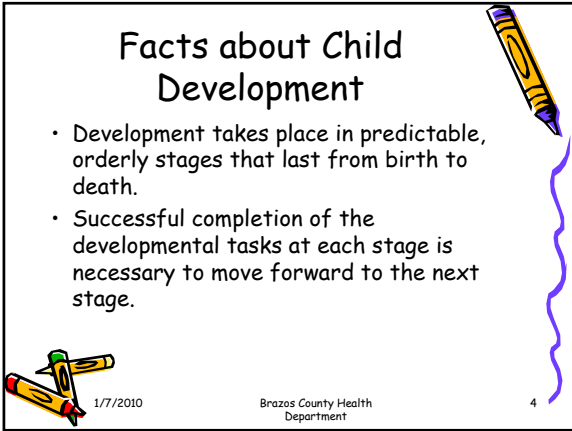
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## Brain Development

- Repeated positive experiences are very important for building emotional/social relationships.
- There are "prime times" during which the brain is most effective in processing certain types of experiences. Many of these prime times occur during the first three years of life.

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## Facts about Child Development

- Development takes place in predictable, orderly stages that last from birth to death.
- Successful completion of the developmental tasks at each stage is necessary to move forward to the next stage.

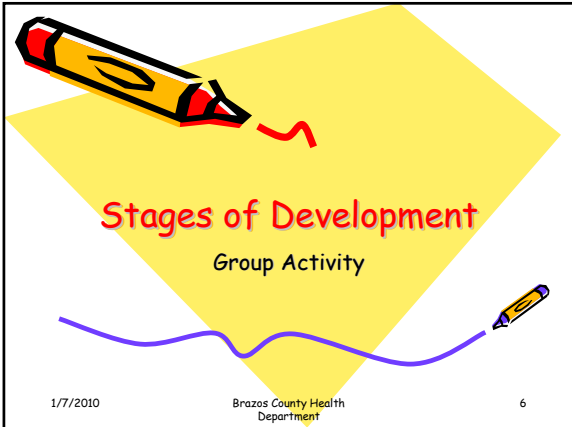
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## Facts about Child Development

- The child must be ready in order to learn any new skill.
- Children's behavior gives clues to their readiness to learn new skills.
- Children must practice new skills again and again in order to master them.

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## Stages of Development

Group Activity

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## I'm 3 Months Old. I...

- Begin to develop a social smile
- Raise my head and chest when lying on stomach
- Stretch my legs out and kick when lying on stomach or back
- Grasps and shakes toys
- Follow moving objects with my eyes
- Begin to imitate some sounds
- Turn my head towards direction of sound



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## I am 7 Months Old. I ...


- Enjoy social play
- Am interested in mirror images
- Find partially hidden objects
- Respond to my own name
- Respond to "no"
- Can roll both ways (front and back)
- Sit with and without support of hands
- Can transfer objects from hand to hand



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## I am 12 Months Old. I ...


- Am shy or anxious with strangers
- Finger-feed myself
- Explore objects in many different ways (shaking, banging, throwing, etc)
- Begin to use objects correctly
- Use simple gestures (shaking head no)
- Say "dada" and "mama"



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## I am 24 Months Old. I ...


- Excited about company of other children
- Begin to show defiant behavior
- Begin to sort shapes and colors
- Use 2-4 word sentences
- Walk alone
- Begin to run
- Scribble on my own




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## Each Child is Unique


- Development takes place in the same order, but on different timetables for each person.
- Acknowledge children's accomplishments, but do not punish a child for being slow to meet developmental milestones.
- If there is a question or concern about development, discuss it with the child's parents.



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## What Can You Do?



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## Be a Responsive Caregiver!

- Stop, watch, question
- Child's eye-level
- Listen/Hear/Respond
  - Avoid correcting grammar when child is sharing
- Practice responsive speaking
- Let children lead you

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## Communicate!

- Talk, read, and sing to children often
- Speak slowly, clearly, and keep it simple
- The more you talk with small children, the more words they will learn and use
- Use correct terms instead of "baby" talk

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## Encourage Play and Exploration!

- Play is the primary way children learn
- As children grow, they expand the limits of how they play
- Provide appropriate toys for the child's developmental stage
- Provide a variety of toys and rotate toys as needed

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## Remember...

Repeated positive interactions will have a tremendous impact on the child's social and emotional behavior!

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## For more information

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