

Az élet első három éve a fejlődéslélektanban¹

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Abstract: Infancy and childhood became a popular issue of research in developmental psychology. This paper is looking over historical roots of the interest for the early childhood and claims that the most important difference between theoretical approaches of the main schools of thought (pedology, psychoanalysis and behaviorism) was a divergent interpretation of the relationship of the developing individual and environment.

Spreading of empirical research promised a new perspective in discovering dynamics of development and environment. Investigation of the perception and cognitive development in early childhood led to significant results, but its basic assumption was that development is in a big proportion independent from the stimuli of environment. Widespread experiments on the primary attachment in the last decades did not proved to be reflecting the real character of relationship between the mother and the child. Human behavior can be examined only in the frames of a norm, which is not a biological, but a cultural one – this is what we can learn from the psychological study of the first years of the life.

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