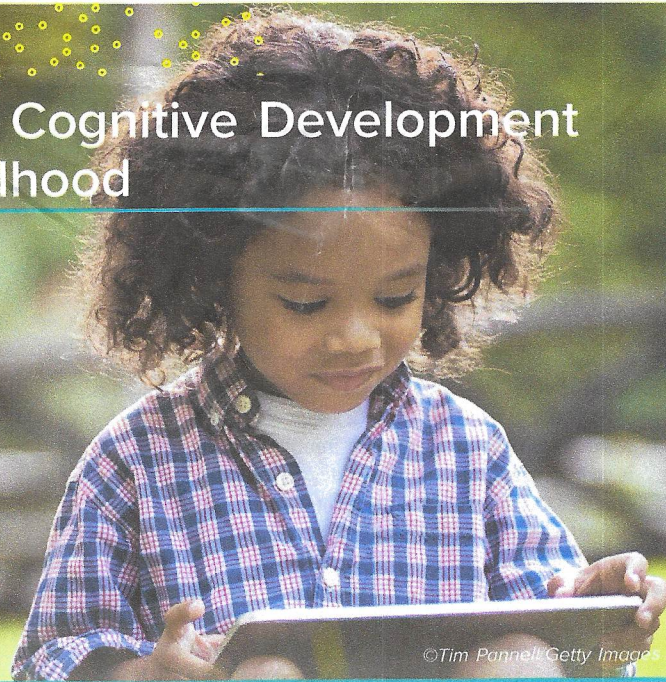


5

Physical and Cognitive Development in Early Childhood



CHAPTER OUTLINE

PHYSICAL CHANGES

Body Growth and Change
The Brain
Motor Development
Nutrition and Exercise
Illness and Death

COGNITIVE CHANGES

Piaget's Preoperational Stage
Vygotsky's Theory
Information Processing

LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT

Understanding Phonology and Morphology
Changes in Syntax and Semantics
Advances in Pragmatics
Young Children's Literacy

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Variations in Early Childhood Education
Education for Young Children Who Are Disadvantaged
Controversies in Early Childhood Education

Stories of Life-Span Development: Reggio Emilia's Children

The Reggio Emilia approach is an educational program for young children that was developed in the northern Italian city of Reggio Emilia. Children of single parents and children with disabilities have priority in admission; other children are admitted according to a scale of needs. Parents pay on a sliding scale based on income.

The children are encouraged to learn by investigating and exploring topics that interest them (Bredekamp, 2017). A wide range of stimulating media and materials are available for children to use as they learn music, movement, drawing, painting, sculpting, collage, puppetry, and photography, among other things (Bond, 2015).

In this program, children often explore topics in a group, which fosters a sense of community, respect for diversity, and a collaborative approach to problem solving (Jones & Reynolds, 2011). In this group setting, two co-teachers guide the children in their exploration. The Reggio Emilia teachers treat each project as an adventure. It can start from an adult's suggestion, from a child's idea, or from an unexpected event such as a snowfall. Every project is based on what the children say and do. The teachers allow children enough time to plan and craft a project.

At the core of the Reggio Emilia approach is an image of children who are competent and have rights, especially the right to outstanding care and education. Parent participation is