

## **Human Development & Learning Theory**

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Human development is the acquisition of skills and abilities. It is a process that takes place over time. Sometimes development occurs slowly, and sometimes it can be very rapid. Consider the immense development infants experience during their first year of life; from learning to sit, to crawling, to walking, to eating solid foods, and even talking. While there may be norms or expectations of when specific developments should occur, development is different for everyone. There are multiple stages of development, and the length of time per stage varies based on each individual. Development occurs along a continuum. There is a specific order to which (some) skills can be acquired. For instance, you can't run before you can walk. Lack of "normal" development along an expected timeline can be a cause of concern. We make assumptions about what learning students should acquire by a specific grade. Learning takes place at different rates and times for everyone. All students have the ability to learn however, it is not a one size fits all model. If students are unable to understand a concept one way, they will understand it another way. There is value in hearing how you got the answer, rather than just the answer. Our understanding of how things work can change over time based on background knowledge, perspective, and through information gained from others. Learning is not limited to school, but is experiential and can happen anywhere. For example, it is one thing to read about a rainbow or have someone describe it to you, but it is a completely different thing to see it.