Psychology Unit 5 - DEVELOPMENT

Egg Baby Project  (aka, The Egg Baby Experience)

The purpose of this assignment is for you to have the opportunity to spend a week with a developing child. Being a parent is a learning and growing experience not only for the baby, but for the parent as well. As such, you will be asked to keep track not only of the ways in which your baby is changing over time, but the ways you are too. There are many tasks to this assignment, and you will need to keep track and stay on top of all of them to really do well. The tasks are listed below. If it seems overwhelming, remember that you're actually very fortunate - real babies don’t come with instruction manuals!

1. Do not lose this packet. Ignorance of the requirements is not an excuse for not meeting them.

2. This is a 100 point assignment and is worth one test grade.

3. On Monday Dec. 5th you are responsible for bringing your egg baby and an appropriate carrier with you to school. Remember your egg must have a face and a way to breath in your carrier!

3. You are required to have your “baby” with you at all times in school next week starting Monday at 7:50 a.m. and continuing until Friday, Dec. 9 at 2:40. There will be daily “baby checks” in class, and also random checks in other locations throughout the day. Failure to have your baby with you at any of these checks results in an automatic loss of 3 points.

4. You are responsible for the well being of your child at all times. This means, among other things, protecting them from harm and harmful environments. If it comes to the attention of DES (Department of Egg Services) that your child is not being cared for properly, the penalties are as follows:
   - Crack or other damage to egg caused by you and reported: 3 point loss
   - Crack or other damage to egg caused by someone else and reported: 2 points
   - **Crack or damage to egg that goes unreported (i.e. I find it in class) : 6 points
   - Reports of ill-care that do not result in bodily harm: 1 points

5. There may be times when you are engaged in an activity that would be inappropriate or unsafe for a young child. In these cases, you must get a baby-sitter. Although you do not actually have to pay this person, you must keep track of how much you would have to pay them, at a fixed rate of $12/hour (a bargain!). You must “pay” even your parents or other relatives. Leaving your child alone at any point is completely unacceptable and will result in a deduction of 5 points minimum.

6. As your child matures, there are developmental milestones that you will need to supervise to ensure that your child is developing normally. There are also various challenges & choices that you will have to tackle as a parent. To help you do this, there will be nightly assignments (Daily Reports #s 1 - 5), and daily in-class “pediatrician visits.” These assignments must be done on time - a child doesn’t stop developing because a parent has something else to do. Failure to have your Daily Reports done on time will result in a deduction of 6 points. It is strongly recommended that you also complete the Parent Issue Sheets in conjunction with the Daily Reports. These assignments will not require much outside research.
7. At the end of the assignment you will be given a series of questions to answer regarding your parenting experience. Responding to these prompts in a thoughtfully constructed reflection paper will be part of your final grade.

8. On the due date, you will turn in the following items, to be evaluated as follows:
   a) Each of the five Daily Report Sheets - worth 6 points each (assessed on due dates)
   b) Each of the five Parenting Issue Sheets - worth 6 points each
      (If you decide not to type these, they must be neatly written)
   c) Your response essay - worth 30 points  (This should be typed and double spaced.)

Any loss of points will be then deducted. You might notice that the assignments themselves are only worth a potential 90 points - an A- if everything is done well. That is because doing the minimum is really only A- parenting. You will be awarded up to an extra 10 points for going above and beyond. This includes, but is not limited to: taking extra pride and care in your child’s appearance, reading books, having play dates, listening to music, etc. However, if you record that you do these things, you have to actually **do them!** There will be space to record the ways you excel as a parent on your Daily Reports.

**You will be awarded “Above and Beyond” points ONLY if you can prove (with a picture from your phone, bringing in an iTunes lullabye mix, showing off your baby’s handmade crib, with a note from a parent, etc) that the extra effort has been made.**

9. Sound complicated? It is. But remember, being a parent is an amazing opportunity for both personal growth and to be instrumental in someone else’s life. If at any point you feel like being a parent is more than you can handle, remember that this is a completely natural response. Take a short break and a deep breath, then check in with someone who is going through or who has gone through the same thing, and remember: “This, too, shall pass.”

10. Hints on how to complete assignments thoroughly: Info about child development is available in the packet “What to expect the First Year.” You should read this handout carefully, talk to knowledgeable adults (your parents and/or others), and research online in order to fill out the chart. You should record at least 2 developments per column on your Daily Reports. The more effort you put into this assignment, the more you will get out of it. Be creative, ask about your own development from those who were around you, think about your own development, and what would/should help your baby thrive.
Daily Report One: Welcome to Parenting!

At your first pediatrician’s visit, and every subsequent visit, your doctor is going to want to know the things that you observe about your child. Check the packets given to you and fill in the following chart. Reminder: Two items per column, minimum.

How old is baby at this check-up? _____1 month_____

<table>
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<tr>
<th>What motor skills does your child have at this point?</th>
<th>What are your baby’s eating habits?</th>
<th>What are your baby’s sleeping habits?</th>
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Above and beyond parenting?

Did you need any babysitters during this period? Why did you need them and how much did it cost you?
**Parenting Issue One: To Breast or Bottle Feed?**

Please read the literature provided, summarize below, and figure out if you are going to have a bottle-fed or breast fed baby. Obviously, if you are a man, you aren’t going to be able to breast feed, but let’s assume that you are in an equitable relationship and get some say in how your baby is nourished.

Pros of breast-feeding:

Cons of breast-feeding:

Pros of bottle-feeding:

Cons of bottle-feeding:

Any extenuating circumstances that you have:

Ultimate decision and why:
Daily Report Two: Feed Me, I’m Yours

Time to check in with the pediatrician. Please check the packets given to you and fill in the following chart. Reminder: Two items per column, minimum.

How old is your baby at this check up? _____3 months_____

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<th>What motor skills does your child have at this point?</th>
<th>What cognitive and social abilities does your child have at this point?</th>
<th>How are your child’s eating and sleeping habits?</th>
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Above and beyond parenting?

Did you need any babysitters during this period? Why did you need them and how much did it cost you?
Parenting Issue Two: To Bed, or Not to Bed?

Sounds easy, right? Babies get tired, you put them down in their crib, and they sleep angelically through the night. HAH! Here are some questions to consider: Where do you want your baby to sleep? In his own room? In a bassinet in your room? In your bed?

What does the information given say you should do?

What did your parents do with you?

Other factors in your decision?

What you ultimately decide to do and why?
Name _________________________________

Daily Report Three: Let the Games Begin!

Time to check in with the pediatrician. Please check the packets given to you and fill in the following chart.

How old is your baby at this check-up? _____ 6 months ______

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<th>What motor skills does your child have at this point?</th>
<th>What cognitive and social abilities does your child have at this point?</th>
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Above and Beyond Parenting?

Did you need any babysitters during this period? Why did you need them and how much did it cost you?
Parenting Issue Three: All Work and No Play...

The big decision: Are you going to go back to work? The majority if you can assume that you are in a partnership where each of you makes an equal amount of money. You can also assume that child care would account for one third of your total income. One of you staying home would mean that there is half as much money coming into the house. But money isn’t the only factor here...

Do you really want to stay home all day with a baby? What’s your thinking?

What social pressures do you feel regarding going back to work or staying home? Your gender is an important thing to consider here.

What did your parents do regarding this question?

Other extenuating factors:

What do you ultimately decide to do and why?
Name: ______________________________

Daily Report Four: Cha-Cha-Cha-Changes!

Time to check in with the pediatrician. Please check the packets given to you and fill in the following chart.

How old is your baby at this check-up? _____ 9 months ________

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<th>What are your child’s gross motor skills at this point?</th>
<th>What are your child’s fine motor skills at this point?</th>
<th>What cognitive and social abilities does your child have at this point?</th>
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Above and Beyond Parenting?

Did you need any babysitters during this period? Why did you need them and how much did it cost you?
Parenting Issue Four: When the $%*! Hits the Fan

It was inevitable. Something that is not a cause for great concern, but is definitely difficult for a parent, has happened to your child.

What’s the problem?

How would this issue impact your life on a daily basis?

What does WebMD say to do about this?

What do your parents say to do about this?

(Above and beyond!) What does your pediatrician say to do about this?

How do you ultimately handle this problem?
Name: ________________________________

**Daily Report Five: And On to Toddlerhood!**

Time to check in with the pediatrician. Please check the packets given to you and fill in the following chart.

How old is your baby at this check-up? __12 months_____

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<th>What are your child’s gross motor skills at this point?</th>
<th>What are your child’s fine motor skills at this point?</th>
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Above and Beyond Parenting?

Did you need any babysitters during this period? Why did you need them and how much did it cost you?
Parenting Issue Five: And Baby Makes Three, Four, Five...

Time to start thinking about whether or not you want your family to keep expanding. Below are some things to consider:

What type of family have you imagined yourself having?

What type of family do you come from, and how many years apart are you and your siblings?

What decision did you make regarding going back to work? How would having another child impact that decision?

What advice do your parents give you about this?

Any other extenuating circumstances to consider?

What are you thinking regarding family planning at this point?