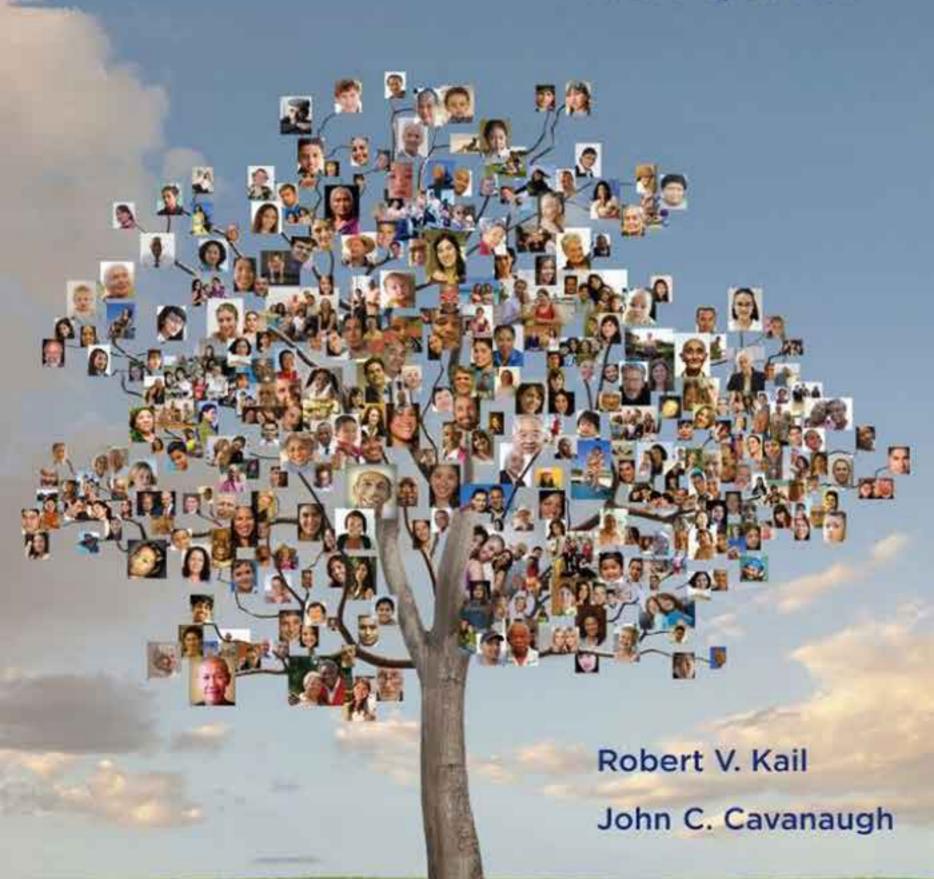
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ESSENTIALS OF Human Development

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ESSENTIALS OF Human Development

A Life-Span View

Robert V. Kail

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Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education



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Preface

Human development is the most fascinating and most complex science there is. Describing how people change (and how they stay the same) over their lives requires a multidisciplinary approach to fully capture the richness of the physical, intellectual, and social dimensions of development. Instructors often find it challenging to cover human development in the typical semester-long course. Consequently, we have created a focused text that emphasizes the essential, defining features of modern research and theory in human development. Specifically, *Essentials of Human Development: A Life-Span View* fills the need for a shorter text that provides the following:

- A streamlined, readable account of human development across the life span
- Conceptual foundations that enable students to become educated and critical interpreters of developmental information
- An introduction to research and to the application of that research to important issues in life-span development

ORGANIZATION

A Modified Chronological Approach

Some human development texts take a chronological approach (focusing on functioning at specific stages of the life span, such as infancy, adolescence, and middle adulthood), but others use a topical approach (following a specific aspect of development, such as personality, throughout the life span). Both approaches have their merits, so we have combined them in a way that captures the best aspects of both. The overall organization of the text is chronological: We trace development from conception through late life in sequential order and dedicate several chapters to topical issues pertaining to particular points in the life span (infancy and early childhood, adolescence, young adulthood, middle adulthood, and late life).

But because the developmental continuity of such topics as social and cognitive development gets lost with narrowly defined, artificial age-stage divisions, we dedicate some chapters to tracing their development over larger segments of the life span. These chapters provide a more coherent description of important developmental changes, emphasize that development is not easily divided into "slices," and provide students with understandable explanations of developmental theories.

Balanced Coverage of the Entire Life Span

A primary difference between *Essentials of Human Development: A Life-Span View* and similar texts is that this book provides a richer and more complete description of adult development and aging. Following the introductory chapter, the remaining 15 chapters of the text are evenly divided among childhood, adolescence, adulthood, and aging. This balanced treatment reflects not only the rapid emergence of adult development and aging as a major emphasis in the science of human development but also a recognition that roughly three-fourths of a person's life occurs beyond adolescence.

As a reflection of our modified chronological approach, *Essentials of Human Development: A Life-Span View* is divided into four main parts. After an introduction

to the science of human development (Chapter 1), Part 1 includes a discussion of the biological foundations of life (Chapter 2) and development during infancy and early childhood (Chapters 3 to 5). Part 2 focuses on development during middle childhood and adolescence (Chapters 6 to 9). Part 3 (Chapters 10 to 13) focuses on young and middle adulthood. Part 4 examines late adulthood (Chapters 14 and 15) and concludes with a consideration of dying and bereavement (Chapter 16).

CONTENT AND APPROACH

Biopsychosocial Emphasis

Our text provides comprehensive, up-to-date coverage of research and theory from conception to old age and death. We explicitly adopt the biopsychosocial framework as an organizing theme, describing it in depth in Chapter 1, and then integrating it throughout the text—often in combination with other developmental theories.

An Engaging Personal Style

On several occasions, we communicate our personal involvement with the issues being discussed by providing examples from our experiences as illustrations of how human development plays itself out in people's lives. In addition, every major section of a chapter opens with a short vignette, helping personalize a concept before it is discussed. Other rich examples are integrated throughout the text narrative and showcased in the Real People feature in nearly every chapter.

Emphasis on Inclusiveness

In content coverage, in the personalized examples used, and in the photos displayed, we emphasize diversity—within the United States and around the world—in ethnicity, gender, race, age, ability, and sexual orientation.

Appreciation of the Diverse Career Goals of Students

Students often study human development because they're pursuing a career related to health and human sciences, be it as a nurse, physician, educator, psychologist, social worker, or speech–language therapist. These students are often eager to see how human development research can allow them to work more effectively with future patients, students, or clients. Consequently, *Essentials of Human Development: A Life-Span View* emphasizes the application of human development research across diverse professional settings. *Human Development in Action* features (in the margins) encourage students to imagine themselves in a specific professional setting and to apply knowledge of human development to a specific problem. Similarly, *Apply* questions at the end of every section ask students to use material presented in that section to solve a problem facing a professional in the health and human sciences. Thus, this book consistently underscores the utility of research and theory in human development for improving the human condition.

PEDAGOGICAL FEATURES

Among the most important aspects of *Essentials of Human Development: A Life-Span View* is its exceptional integration of pedagogical features, designed to help students maximize their learning. Features that are normally set apart are woven seamlessly into the narrative. This unrivaled integration is meant to help students stay focused on a seamless presentation of human development across the life span.

■ SPOTLIGHT ON RESEARCH features emphasize a fuller understanding of the science and scope of life-span development.

- REAL PEOPLE APPLYING HUMAN DEVELOPMENT features illustrate the everyday applications of life-span development issues.
- LINKING RESEARCH TO LIFE features show how findings from research can be used to improve human development throughout the life span.
- Learning Objectives, followed by brief vignettes, open the major sections in each chapter. Each major section is numbered for easy assignment and to help students visually organize the material.
- HUMAN DEVELOPMENT IN ACTION questions in the margins encourage application of research to real problems in professional settings.
- Test Yourself questions at the end of major sections reinforce key concepts discussed in the section.
- A bulleted *Summary*, organized around the chapter's learning objectives within each major section, ends each chapter.

In sum, we believe that our integrated pedagogical system gives students all the tools they need to comprehend the material and study for tests.

SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS

Instructor's Resource Manual

ISBN: 978-1-285-41739-4

Instructor's Resource Manual by Rebecca Fraser-Thill of Bates College contains resources designed to streamline and maximize the effectiveness of course preparation. The contents include chapter overviews and outlines, learning objectives, critical thinking discussion questions, instructional goals, lecture expanders, video recommendations, and handouts.

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To the Student

Essentials of Human Development: A Life-Span View is written with you, the student, in mind. In the next few pages, we describe several features of the book that make it easier for you to learn. Please don't skip this material; it will save you time in the long run.

Learning and Study Aids

Each chapter includes several distinctive features to help you learn the material and organize your studying:

- Each chapter opens with a detailed outline and an overview of the main topics.
- Each major section within a chapter begins with a set of learning objectives. There is also a brief vignette introducing one of the topics to be covered in that section and providing an example of the developmental issues people face.
- When key terms are introduced in the text, they appear in bold, orange type and are defined in the margins. This should make key terms easy to find and learn.
- Key developmental theories are introduced in Chapter 1 and are referred to throughout the text.
- *Human Development in Action* questions appear in the margins. These are designed to help you apply information from the text to problems that you might encounter as a professional in health, human sciences, or education.
- The end of each section includes a feature called *Test Yourself*, which will help you check your knowledge of major ideas you just read about. The *Test Yourself* questions serve two purposes. First, they give you a chance to spot-check your understanding of the material. Second, the questions relate the material you just read to other facts, theories, or the biopsychosocial framework you read about earlier.
- Text features that expand or highlight a specific topic are integrated with the rest of the material. This book includes the following three features, each identified by a distinctive icon:
 - SPOTLIGHT ON RESEARCH features elaborate on specific research studies discussed in the text and provide more details on the design and methods used.
 - REAL PEOPLE: APPLYING HUMAN DEVELOPMENT features present case studies that illustrate how issues in human development discussed in the chapter are manifested in the lives of real people.
 - LINKING RESEARCH TO LIFE features show how findings from research relate directly to real issues or problems facing people at different phases in their lives.
- The end of each chapter includes two special study tools. A *Summary*, organized by learning objective within major section headings, provides a review of the key ideas in the chapter. Next is a list of *Key Terms* that appear in the chapter.

We strongly encourage you to take advantage of these learning and study aids as you read the book. We also left room in the margins for you to make notes on the material so that you can more easily integrate the text with your class and lecture material.

Tips on How to Use This Book

Your instructor will probably assign about one chapter per week. Don't try to read an entire chapter in one sitting. Instead, on the first day, preview the chapter. Read the introduction and notice how the chapter fits into the entire book; next, page through the chapter, reading the learning objectives, vignettes, and major headings. Also read the italicized sentences and the boldfaced terms. Your goal is to get a general overview of the entire chapter—a sense of what it's all about.

Now you're ready to begin reading. Go to the first major section and preview it again, reminding yourself of the topics covered. Then start to read. As you read, think about what you're reading. Every few paragraphs, stop briefly. Try to summarize the main ideas in your own words, ask yourself whether the ideas describe your experiences or those of others you know, or tell a friend about something interesting in the material. In other words, read actively—get involved in what you're reading. Don't just stare glassy-eyed at the page!

Continue this pattern—reading, summarizing, and thinking—until you finish the section. Then answer the *Test Yourself* questions to determine how well you've learned what you've read. If you've followed the read–summarize–think cycle as you worked your way through the section, you should be able to answer most of the questions.

The next time you sit down to read (preferably the next day), start by reviewing the second major section. Then complete it with the read–summarize–think cycle. Repeat this procedure for all major sections.

When you've finished the last major section, wait a day or two and then review each major section. Pay careful attention to the italicized sentences, the boldfaced terms, and the *Test Yourself* questions. Also, use the study aids at the end of the chapter to help you integrate the ideas in the chapters.

With this approach, it should take several 30- to 45-minute study sessions to complete each chapter. Don't be tempted to rush through an entire chapter in a single session. Research consistently shows that you learn more effectively by having daily (or nearly daily) study sessions devoted to both reviewing familiar material and taking on a relatively small amount of new material.

Terminology

A few words about terminology before we embark. Certain terms are used to refer to different periods of the life span. Although you may already be familiar with the terms, here we clarify how they are used in this text. The following terms refer to a specific range of ages:

Newborn: birth to 1 month
Infant: 1 month to 1 year
Toddler: 1 to 2 years
Preschooler: 2 to 6 years
School-age child: 6 to 12 years
Adolescent: 12 to 20 years
Young adult: 20 to 40 years
Middle-aged adult: 40 to 60 years
Young-older adult: 60 to 80 years
Old-old adult: 80 years and beyond

Sometimes, for variety, we use other terms that are less tied to specific ages, such as babies, youngsters, and older adults. However, you will be able to determine the specific ages from the context.

Organization

To organize the material into meaningful segments across the life span, Essentials of Human Development: A Life-Span View is divided into four parts: Prenatal Development, Infancy, and Early Childhood; School-Age Children and Adolescents; Young and Middle Adulthood; and Late Adulthood. We believe this organization achieves two major goals. First, it divides the life span in ways that relate to the divisions encountered in everyday life. Second, it enables us to provide a more complete account of adulthood than other books do.

Because some developmental issues pertain only to a specific point in the life span, some chapters are organized around specific ages. Overall, the text begins with conception and proceeds through childhood, adolescence, adulthood, and old age to death. But because some developmental processes unfold over longer periods, some chapters are organized around specific topics.

Part 1 covers prenatal development, infancy, and early childhood. Here we see how genetic inheritance operates and how the prenatal environment affects a person's future development. During the first 2 years of life, the rate of change in both motor and perceptual arenas is amazing. How young children acquire language and begin to think about their world is as intriguing as it is rapid. Early childhood also marks the emergence of social relationships, as well as an understanding of gender roles and identity. By the end of this period, a child is reasonably proficient as a thinker, uses language in sophisticated ways, and is ready for the major transition into formal education.

Part 2 covers the years from elementary school through high school. In middle childhood and adolescence, the cognitive skills formed earlier in life evolve to adultlike levels in many areas. Family and peer relationships expand. During adolescence, there is increased attention to work and sexuality emerges. The young person begins to learn how to face difficult issues in life. By the end of this period, a person is on the verge of legal adulthood. The typical individual uses logic and has been introduced to most issues that adults face.

Part 3 covers young adulthood and middle age. During this period, most people achieve their most advanced modes of thinking, reach peak physical performance, form intimate relationships, start families of their own, begin and advance within their occupations, balance many conflicting roles, and begin to confront aging. Over these years, many people go from breaking away from their families to having their children break away from them. Relationships with parents are redefined, and the pressures of being caught between the younger and the older generations are felt. By the end of this period, most people have shifted focus from time since birth to time until death.

Part 4 covers the last decades of life. The biological, physical, cognitive, and social changes associated with aging become apparent. Although many changes reflect decline, many other aspects of old age represent positive elements: wisdom, retirement, friendships, and family relationships. We conclude this section, and the text, with a discussion of the end of life. Through our consideration of death, you will gain additional insights into the meaning of life and human development.

We hope the organization and learning features of the text are helpful to you making it easier for you to learn about human development. After all, this book tells the story of people's lives, and understanding the story is what it's all about.

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