

Distancing

- Perceptual principle affecting cognitive changes
- Child has increasing capacity to relate to stimuli at greater distances
- Initially child is egocentric, early perceptions involve senses - touch, taste, smell
- Later, able to have visual representation, so symbolic
- Language is the ultimate perceptual distance

Perception

- (def.) the processes by which a person selects, organizes, integrates, and interprets the sensory stimuli he/she receives
- Perception and cognition are intertwined
- Perception can be thought of as the starting point, the recognition of stimuli
- Cognition is the end point, or understanding of the stimuli

Visual Perception

- Vision is first sense child controls
- Hours-old infant able to follow movement visually and focus is exact distance during feeding to mother's face
- Belief that children are born with perceptual skills that lead them to prefer human faces
- Foundation for caregiver-child interactions
- Referential looking and joint attention

Auditory Perception

- Children are born with auditory perceptual abilities that lead them to prefer human speech sounds
- Head turn response to sound by 2 to 7 days
- Newborns discriminate between sounds of different pitches in human speech range
- May also recognize changes in loudness

Newborn auditory preferences

- Prefer voice of mother and father over others
- Prefer material heard while still in utero
- Prefer speech over nonspeech type sounds
- Infants are born with ability to discriminate among all sounds of all languages
- Perceptual skills change with language learning - loss or narrowing of ability
