

Infant Reflexes

II.4.12 A

Intro: According to Piaget, the infant is in the SENSORIMOTOR stage and responds to the world through reflex actions, use of senses and motor (movement) abilities.

Babies are born with reflexes: instinctive, automatic responses.

What are some of the reflexes you have and what are their purposes?

- Sneezing: clears nose of dust and lint
- Swallowing: keeps you from choking
- Blinking: wets your eyes and keeps the dirt out
- Breathing: lungs automatically inhale/exhale to exchange air

These are all controlled by the nervous system and sometimes the nervous system works so quickly that a person may not even be aware that the brain, spinal cord and nerves are at work. When quick responses are required, the nerve connection to the brain can be bypassed. The spinal cord takes over the brain's job and instructs the body to move. These quick moving messages and responses along the nervous system are called reflex actions or reflexes. These stay with us for life.

Babies are born with some permanent reflexes and several temporary reflexes. The temporary reflexes disappear after several months.

To get a better idea of what I'm talking about view the following YouTube clip:

Infant Reflexes (Scott Sanders) <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c5mWqQm2WTg>

Jigsaw Activity: Assign one of the following reflexes to students to learn more about, and to create a poster to share information about this specific reflex with the entire class. Even if students have the same reflex, they will research and then the students will group together by reflex to summarize all of their information into a group poster.

Reflex topics include:

Grasping	Stepping	Moro/Startle	Tonic Neck	Rooting
Babinski	Sucking	Babkin		

Students will locate the following information about their assigned reflex:

- Name of the reflex
- Description of the reflex
- Stimulus
- Baby's Response
- Picture of what the reflex looks like

Students will then group with other members who share the same reflex to compare information and summarize all individual's work to create a visual/poster. The poster needs to include all of the above information.

Students will then orally present their reflex poster/information and students will fill in a chart for each reflex.

Review Game: Play SWAT....write the reflex terms on the board and divide students into two teams. Read a scenario or description of term and first team to SWAT the correct response with a fly swatter gets a point.

Assessment: Quiz

