

(b) (c) Social Development

During infancy, the baby is solely dependent on his mother. But during early childhood period, they become independent and develops into a distinctly socialised individual. This period i.e. - 3-6 years are called pre-gang age. Changes in social behaviour developed during this period. With increasing age, the total time that the child spends with his peers are more than with adults. The three year old resists adult influence and wants to be independent. At four and five years, children become more friendly and cooperative with others.

(Generally, at three years, the size of the play group increases and they become selective in play. There is an increase of friendly relation with increase in age and there is frequent interaction between them. But, during early childhood, the child is selfcentred in his social behaviour, they want to play systematically with co-operation. Thus they learn to share and adjust.)

There are two antisocial behaviour shown by the children during early childhood. They are negativism and aggression. The causes of negativism are - aggressive discipline from parents and frustration. Children having these traits fail to carry out orders, or pretend that they are not listening, stubborn, demanding, destructive and moody. Physical punishment, experience, discrimination by parents and teachers, unnecessary blame, rejection etc. may cause aggression. Quarrelling is a common characteristic seen among children during early childhood. It is considered as an educational experience for the child. Because it teaches them about what others will and will not tolerate.

Thus with increase in age, the child wants to win the approval of adults and later of individuals of his own age. Sometime he comes in conflict with adult regulations and codes of social group. Because he wants to get attention from others, for which, he even tries the unacceptable ways.

(During early childhood, social development and behaviour is determined by two factors. They are - (i) Self concept and (ii) Self control. In early childhood period, the concept of self broadens and they understand about their abilities. By five years of age, the child is clear about his/her

own gender. At the same time, when the child enters pre-school, he acquires knowledge about certain values. Social behaviour develops in the school environment which helps the child to control himself. Now the child learns to play with playmates in co-operation and shares his play things with them. The teachers and playmates of a pre-school should play an important role in such case.

D. Emotional Development : During early childhood period emotions are simple but more intense. This period is also a time of emotional disequilibrium. Because when children are out of focus or unattended, it will lead to emotional outburst and are difficult to control or guide them. Generally children aged between 2 to 5 or 6 shows this kind of emotional outburst.

Most of the heightened emotions seen during this period are - temper tantrums, intense fears, jealousy etc., which may occur due to various reasons. Some of them are - fatigue due to prolonged outdoor play, pressure from parents for doing any work and when they eat little amount of food than required etc. Studies on pre-school children by many scientists have proved that children show positive emotion, whose nutritional status is high.

The source of heightened emotional characteristic during this period is mostly physiological in nature. Most of the children feel that they are capable of doing more, whatever their parents allow them to do. Parental restrictions may cause rebellion among them. On the contrary, when they are incapable of doing any work as desired to do so very easily, they become angry. Moreover, children will experience less emotional tension, anxiety etc., whose parents are more realistic in their expectations.

Some Common emotions of early childhood are :

(i) **Anger :** It is one of the most common emotions seen among children of early childhood. It is also an easy and fastest way of satisfying different needs or acquiring things needed by them. The cause of anger in children are - conflict over play things with playmates, restrictions placed on their work, attack from playmates, obstructions in satisfying their needs etc. Children express anger by throwing any objects, crying, screaming, jumping etc.

(ii) **Fear :** Children express this emotion differently in different situation.

Memories of any unpleasant situation, imitation, imaginary or anticipated situation may help in formulating fear. For example - the dark room in the cinema hall may help in arousing fear. Loud noise from the Television, Radio or any movies with frightening elements, fearful objects, stories, pictures etc. may arouse fear in children during early childhood period. At first, the child becomes panic to a fearful situation, but later on his response to these situation becomes more specific. Children try to keep away from a situation that they may express their fear, hide or sometimes cry for avoiding such situation.

(iii) Jealousy : As soon as the second child is born in a family, children of early childhood years becomes jealous towards the new born baby. Since the amount of maternal attention required for the care of the new born baby increases, the older child feels neglected and jealous of the baby. In such situation, they show infantile behaviour like bed wetting, thumb sucking, pretending to be ill, general naughtiness, destructiveness etc. The reason for showing these behaviour is to draw the attention of his parents or other family members towards him.

(iv) Curiosity : Generally from 2 to 3 years of age during childhood is known as questioning age. This questioning age begins at 2 or 3 years of age and reaches its peak at about six years. When they find answers to their questions, they satisfied. Thus children become curious to know about their bodies, about unfamiliar or new objects in their environment.

(v) Joy : In small children physical well being bring them joy. Sudden or unexpected noise, slight calamities, incongruous situation, playing pranks on other, completion of any difficult task etc. may bring joy to small children. They express their joy by smiling, laughing, clapping hands and by jumping.

(vi) Grief : Children of early childhood period becomes sad when they loss anything they love most. Sudden illness or death of their pet, person whom they love etc. may be the cause for sadness or grief among them. Children express their grief by crying, refusing to eat and to perform their normal activities.

(vii) Affection : Children tend to like most of those, who like them and give them pleasure. Their affection is directed mainly to people, animals or pets

and inanimate love objects are sometimes substitutes for human objects of affection. Young children express their affection by hugging, kissing and by patting the objects they like.

(c) **Cognitive Development:** There is a close relationship between cogni-