

musical sounds.

2.7. SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Social development is the ability of a child to behave in a manner acceptable to the society, in which he lives. In other words social development is the ability of an individual to develop and maintain good relationship with other people and

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his social circumstances.

A new born infant shows no interest to his environment. He cries, when hungry and when wet. Once these physiological needs are satisfied, he sleeps. Gradually with age, he can recognize his mother and shows interest in people around, who takes care of him.

BIRTH TO THREE MONTHS (0-3 months)

It has been mentioned earlier that social development is nil at birth. Gradually they show interest in people around. At 3 months, they start responding by smiling and cries when no one is with them. At this stage, they can respond to different sounds.

FOUR TO SIX MONTHS (4-6 months) :

At the age of 4-5 months, the child can react differently to angry and friendly voices. During this period, the child becomes more social. He can recognize people around him and respond by gurgling, cooing and babbling. They start recognizing parents, siblings and respond by smiling, but shows expression of fear in the presence of strangers. At 6 months, the child becomes aggressive and pulls the hair of the person who is holding him or grabs the persons's nose or eye glasses.

SOME SPECIFIC CHARACTERISTICS OF CHILDHOOD

15

SEVEN TO NINE MONTHS

(7-9 months)

At this age, the child loves his mother very much and the bond between the mother and child becomes strong. This motivates him to establish friendly relationship with others. The child can differentiate between love and scolding during this period.

TEN TO EIGHTEEN MONTHS

(10-18 months)

By ten or twelve months, the child feels secure with his parents and other family members and avoid strangers. He smiles and waves his arms towards familiar people and show fear of strangers by crying. He becomes angry if someone takes the things belonging to his parents. He becomes antisocial at this period and donot want to share his toys, play items with others or with playmates. Children at this age indulge in individual play and spend less time with other children. They like to use their parents's shoes, shirt, mothers bindi, lipstick etc.

ONE AND HALF YEARS TO THREE YEARS

(1½ -3 years)

The child at the age develops a strong relationship with his mother and wants her undivided attention. Some problem may arise, if the second child is born in

the family. Gradually the child shows his interest to the newborn and gets involved in taking care of the little one.

From two year onwards, children want to co-operate with other children in play. They show resistant behaviour and tries to share play items/toys, with play mates. Parents should praise their children when they show good behaviour. Children learn to socialise by observing people in their environment and gradually establish social relationship and become social. As children grow, parents must be consistent in their behaviour towards their children. Parents should not scold their children. Parental pressure to too many do's and don'ts towards their children will have negative effect. Children may be afraid to do anything on their own and become socially dependent on others. Instead, parents should encourage their children to learn good social behaviour.

2.8. SOCIALIZATION

Socialization is a process, through which the child learns to eat, speak and play. In other words socialization means behaving well in a group. Social development leads to social behaviour. Socialization begins from infancy, specially around the third month, when the baby can distinguish between people and objects in his environment and when he responds differently to them. During this

time the muscles of eye becomes strong and sufficiently coordinated. This enable him to look at people and objects. Hearing is also sufficiently developed to enable him to recognise sounds. The child smiles in response to a smile, turns his head when he hears human voices. Children express joy, pleasure, by smiling, kicking, waving hands, when he sees his parent, and other familiar persons. Thus socialization process among children begins. The family, schools etc. have an important role in socialization process of the child.