

**Social development** – *refers to changes in the way an individual relates to others and develops the skills needed for participating in the social context.*

- ♥ Occurs through socialisation<sup>1</sup>
  - E.g. discussion of homework socializes fosters importance of education → kids also developing in terms of their understanding of reciprocity of skills and conversation.
- ♥ Social development → friendships forms developmental context
- ♥ Skill set changes because their participation in social contexts change.
- ♥ Human relationships are a vehicle to social development.
- ♥ Key developmental contexts in which social development is essential → schools are a main developmental context that children participate in
  - Links to competence in other areas of development → related to moral reasoning for example. → perspective taking ability
  - Integral part of human development → Need a sense of belonging
  - Integral part of school/academic development → school environments are inherently social spaces
- ♥ The developing social being –
  - Infancy – attachment to a primary caregiver: feeling of love, warmth and security<sup>2</sup> → if not satisfactory, brain development is affected. → foundation stone for all future relationships
  - Early childhood – family bonds and some play associates; basic social skills such as sharing and turn-taking.
  - Middle childhood – play mates become friends, peer groups start to develop; social skills such as listening<sup>3</sup>, being helpful, cooperating.<sup>4</sup>
  - Adolescence – friendships become main social context; group membership dominates peer context; social skills such as providing social support; regulating emotions and behaviors. → provide social support<sup>5</sup>

### **Social development essentials –**

1. Thinking about the self: development of self-understanding
  - i. Key concepts: Self esteem, self-concept<sup>6</sup>, self-efficacy → directly tied to social world we live in → informed by the below
  - ii. Development: Social feedback<sup>7</sup>, social comparison, social role models → more likely to learn social behaviors from people who respect/ look up to
2. Thinking about others: development of perspective-taking ability
  - i. Moral development

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<sup>1</sup> when members of society influence beliefs and behaviours of children to enable them to adopt the culture, norms and values of that society.

<sup>2</sup> Associated with social reasoning in first six weeks of life and brain development → what it is to feel loved – associated with neurological development.

<sup>3</sup> Associated with language/ communicative development. → need more complex skills: being less egocentric and more helpful → reaching out

<sup>4</sup> Kids who are impulsive, say things without thinking, poor self-regulation → want to be friends who are thoughtful and can control themselves.

<sup>5</sup> Expect social support and advice

<sup>6</sup> Perception of your ability

<sup>7</sup> If it comes from someone who socially value