

Child Development Tree analogy

Child Development/Parenting and Life Management

The growth, development and maturation of children, from fertilization through adolescence are amazing processes. At each step along the way, both hereditary influences from within the child's own genetic code and environmental influences over which the child has little or no control, impact that developmental process. This project is designed to graphically illustrate the impact of these hereditary and environmental influences, as well as suggest steps that parents, caregivers, and educators can take to help maximize each child's individual potential. As each developmental stage unfolds, the tree analogy will be used to illustrate the progression of the developmental milestones that occur and the importance of the caring adults in the life of children.

The Tree Analogy for each stage of child development will be due on the day of the test of that particular stage, for example, the Infant Tree Analogy is due the day of the Infancy Test.

Steps to Completing the Tree Analogy Project

For each stage of development (prenatal, infancy, toddlerhood, preschool years, school age, adolescence, and adulthood), you will be given a Tree Analogy graphic designed to depict the corresponding stage of development. For each developmental stage, students are to complete the following:

1. On the branches that outline the Tree Analogy page, list the developmental milestones for PLACES of development (Physical, Language, Approaches to learning, Cognitive, Emotional, and Social), clearly labeled on a section of the branches. Be thorough in your list, but selective as well. You will not be able to include every single thing that happens during each stage of development. Select what you decide are the most important, significant things.
2. In the open space around the tree illustration, write about key environmental influences that are affecting the child at that stage and steps adults in the life of each child can take to maximize their development. Again, you won't be able to include every single environmental influence or positive effect adults can have in a child's life at each stage of development. Be thorough but selective. Choose the strongest influences and the most important actions adults can take to positively impact a child's development.
3. On the back of each Tree Analogy graphic, Child Development students will have an assignment to include a list of potential challenges a child may face, at the time or in the future, if the developmental milestones of that stage are not met or if the environment the child is growing up in does not offer what the child needs. Include here references to children with special needs. What impact might neglect have? What if a child was blind/deaf? How might the environment around the child need to be adjusted to accommodate for their special needs? What about children with physical challenges (cerebral palsy, spina bifida, etc.) What about children born with FAS (Fetal Alcohol Syndrome)?
4. On the back of the Prenatal Tree Analogy graphic, Parenting and Life Management students will be expected to include a list of potential challenges that may occur, during the pregnancy or later in the life of the child, if the prenatal environment is toxic in any way. For example, what impacts might occur if the developing child is exposed to alcohol, tobacco, or drugs? What are potential effects of caffeine? Certain maternal illnesses/diseases, including STDs.

5. SPECIAL NOTE: The Tree Analogy for Prenatal Development will be completed during Parenting and Life Management. The remaining Tree Analogy graphics will be completed in Child Development. For those completing Articulation Credit in Child Development, all 6 analogy graphics must be included in your Child Development Portfolio.

Tree Analogy Rubric

Name: _____

Date: _____

	Exemplary - 3	Satisfactory - 2	Unsatisfactory - 1	Rating	Weight	Score
Developmental Milestones	All key and critical milestones are included for all 4 developmental areas	Nearly all key and critical milestones are included for all 4 developmental areas	Numerous milestones are missing in 1 or more of the 4 developmental areas		2	
Environmental Influences/ Positive Adult Impact	All key and critical environmental influences are addressed. Numerous examples are given of positive steps adults can take to maximize developmental potential	Nearly all key and critical environmental influences are addressed. Several examples are given of positive steps adults can take to maximize developmental potential	A few environmental influences are addressed. A few examples of positive steps adults can take are given.		2	
Presentation and Completion	Analogy is easily read and neatly lettered. Quality is excellent.	Analogy is easily read and legibly lettered. Quality is very good.	Analogy is challenging to read in places, with legibility issues. Quality is poor to mediocre.		2	
				Total Points Earned		
				Total Points Available		18
				Percentage		

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