Infant Motor Development Assignment

ECE 102 Child Growth and Development          Maximum 50 points
Delores Malone, Instructor

For this assignment, you are to observe the motor development of three infants (newborn to 18 months of age). These observations can be conducted in an infant toddler program or with infants that you know, but to whom you are not related or close to. You will need to record and analyze their gross and fine motor skills.

The goals for this assignment are:
- To begin developing professional observation skills
- To become familiar with the milestones of infant motor development
- To understand the developmental norms and individual differences as they relate to infant motor development

Contact a local early childhood program serving infants or other situations where you can observe infants. Observe three infants for a minimum of one hour (20 minutes each).

Some examples of gross motor skills to look for: head lifting, rolling over, sitting up with assistance, sitting up without assistance, crawling, cruising, standing alone, walking alone and/or running.

Some examples of fine motor skills to look for: reaching/grasping (palmar scoop/pincher grasp), holding objects in mouth, feeding self, or shaking a toy (such as a rattle).

Using the format below, note not only what skills were present, but also how the infant demonstrated these skills. (For example: how he/she moved his/her limbs and body – “firmly grasped chew toys,” “crawling slowly, pulling the right leg forward, followed by the left,” or “vigorously shaking a pacifier.”)

The Assignment

Introduction:
- Student’s Name
- Title of the Assignment
- Date of the Observation
- Name of the Program or Adult in Charge of the Infant
- Classroom Observed or Setting Where Infant Was Observed
- Number and Titles of Adults in Classroom or Place Where Observation Occurred
- Beginning and Ending Time of Observation
Body of Observation

A. For this section, you will summarize and analyze your observations of three infants. First, write about each infant separately.

Infant #1
Gender:
Age:
List gross motor skills observed.
List fine motor skills observed.
Describe the gross and fine motor skills that you observed. (How and in what setting did the infant demonstrate these skills?)

Infant #2
Gender:
Age:
List the gross motor skills observed.
List the fine motor skills observed.
Describe the gross and fine motor skills that you observed. (How and in what setting did the infant demonstrate these skills?)

Infant #3
Gender:
Age:
List the gross motor skills observed.
List the fine motor skills observed.
Describe the gross and fine motor skills that you observed. (How and in what setting did the infant demonstrate these skills?)

B. Then respond to these questions ~

1. Note where each infant seems to fit on the development continuum in the textbook.
2. What conclusions can you draw about developmental norms vs. individual differences in infant motor development?
3. What precautions should you keep in mind when analyzing motor development? Use pertinent information from textbook, classroom discussions, and videos to guide your thinking.

Conclusion:

1. Reflect on what you have learned about infant motor development. Offer specific ideas (think in terms of what you did not know before doing this observation), and its significance for your general understanding of this area of development.
2. Why would an understanding of development be important for any parent of early childhood professional?

This assignment is worth 50 points and should be 4-6, double-pages in length.

Points are earned on the following criteria:
- Understanding of the required concepts and application of relevant course/text material.
- Adherence to assignment directions.
- Writing level, organization and structure, spelling and grammar.
- Cite at least 3 (three) references (textbook, classroom notes, videos, internet, periodicals)
  Include a reference page at the end of the paper.