

Child Psychology Scrapbook*

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Introduction

Child psychology, like other areas of psychology, is a living, growing discipline. Researchers are continuously gathering new information about child development, and this information is distributed in journals such as *Child Development* and *Developmental Psychology*, and at conferences such as the biennial meetings of the *Society for Research in Child Development*. In addition, policy relating to the development and well-being of children is constantly being enacted and revised (e.g., witness the current debates about welfare programs for families and children, about standards for child care institutions, and about educational policies such as vouchers, a national curriculum, and “No Child Left Behind”). Furthermore, debates about child development policy are played out in the popular press, including such publications as *Time*, *Newsweek*, *The New York Times*, and *The Fort Worth Star-Telegram*. The major purpose of this activity is to give you an opportunity to track the popular press for debates and discussions about issues pertinent to child development (e.g., Is there an “epidemic” of autism? Has bipolar depression become the diagnosis *de jour* for children in America today? Does “Baby Einstein” make kids smarter?). Further you will be asked to relate the information you find in the popular press to lecture and/or text material from this class.

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Requirements

Steps

1. Check the newspapers and popular magazines for articles relevant to *Child Psychology*.
2. Once you have identified an article you would like to include in your scrapbook, cut it out (or copy/print it) and read it.
3. Put the article in your scrapbook along with a written statement that (a) summarizes the article, and (b) relates the contents of the article to *specific* aspects lecture and/or the textbook.
4. If you are doing a ten-article scrapbook, it is due before the 3rd exam. If you are doing a twenty-article scrapbook, it will be graded twice: once before the 2nd exam (first ten articles) and once at the final exam (second ten articles).

Notes

- Do this activity alone.
- You can have no more than two articles from a given week.
- Each summary should be in the 100-200 word range.
- You can do a ten-article scrapbook for 10 points, or a twenty-article scrapbook for 20 points.