# Childcare Level 1 – The Factors and Skills Involved in a Child’s Intellectual Development

# 1 of 19 – Introduction

Welcome to this session on the factors and skills involved in a child’s intellectual development.

By the end of this session you will be able to:

* List the areas of a child’s development
* Understand what intellectual development involves
* List the intellectual skills involved in a child’s intellectual development
* Identify the factors that affect the intellectual development of children

# 2 of 19 – The areas of development

The different areas of development are:

**Physical development**

Meaning in relation to their bodies

**Intellectual development**

Meaning in relation to their thinking and education

**Language development**

Meaning in relation to their ability to communicate

**Emotional development**

Meaning in relation to their emotions

**Social development**

Meaning in relation to their relationships with other people

In this session, we will focus on intellectual development.

# 3 of 19 – Intellectual development

The intellectual development of children is what helps them to understand the world they live in. Intellectual development consists of all the things that help children:

* Think
* Remember
* Learn
* Solve problems
* Organise

Every child develops in their own way and at their own rate. As a child’s intellectual development progresses normally, the child becomes more confident, which also benefits their social and emotional development.

# 4 of 19 – Intellectual skills

Intellectual development is based on the following intellectual skills:

* Knowledge
* Memory
* Critical thinking
* Reasoning
* Problem solving
* Concentration
* Concept development
* Imagination
* Creativity

We will now look at each of these in more detail.

5 of 19 – Knowledge and memory

Knowledge involves the process of:

* Receiving information
* Understanding information
* Memorising the information
* Being able to recall the information

Memory is part of the process of obtaining knowledge. The ability to memorise information and recall the information when needed is a basic intellectual skill, which other skills rely on, such as critical thinking and reasoning.

# 6 of 19 – Critical thinking and reasoning

Critical thinking involves being able to think about the information and analyse it (meaning to look at in detail). Critical thinking involves having your own opinion about something that you hear. For example, a child may show their friend a blue ball and say: “Look, it is a red ball”. A child that thinks critically will answer: “No, that is a blue ball”.

Reasoning involves thinking about something in a logical and sensible way. For example, when you give a toddler a piece of fruit and a ball, the child will choose to eat the fruit and play with the ball.

# 7 of 19 – Problem-solving and concentration

The process of problem-solving involves:

* Identifying a problem
* Working out a solution
* Predicting what might happen
* Trial and error
* Finding a solution

Concentration is one of the skills required for normal intellectual development. Children learn by watching and copying what other people do or say. Children that are unable to concentrate can face challenges in their development from an early age, as well as during their time at school.

# 8 of 19 – Concept development, imagination and creativity

Concept development involves having the ability to place different images into categories. For example, being able to categorise things based on their colour or shape.

Imagination involves being able to picture things that are not in front of you. For example, drawing a picture, telling stories or pretend play.

Creativity is the most developed intellectual skill because it gives children the ability to express the ideas created in their imagination. For example, it includes the ability to play music.

# 9 of 19 – The adults’ role in a child’s intellectual development

Adults, carers or educators have the responsibly to promote intellectual development. This can happen by:

* Spending time with children
* Playing challenging games with children
* Speaking to children about what they are doing
* Explaining why things happen
* Playing memory games
* Providing opportunities for interesting activities and visits

# 10 of 19 – Factors that affect intellectual development

Normal intellectual development depends on the following categories:

* Health – for example, illnesses and impairments (meaning something that prevents somebody from doing something)
* Family – for example, love and security
* Financial aspects – for example, wealth and stimulation

# 11 of 19 – Factors that affect intellectual development – health

Healthy children have to face less challenges, regarding their intellectual development, than children with health problems or disabilities.

Long-term illnesses that keep children away from school for long periods of time can disrupt their education and progress in comparison to their peers (meaning children of a similar age).

Children that have sight or hearing impairments (meaning something that prevents somebody doing something) are in danger of having a delayed intellectual development in cases where the impairment is not identified early on.

Challenges in verbal communication can also affect a child’s intellectual development. Verbal communication difficulties have an additional impact on children’s self-esteem.

# 12 of 19 – Factors that affect intellectual development – family

Children learn and develop through interactions with other people. The family plays the most important role in every aspect of a child’s development. Intellectual development is promoted when children are raised in a loving environment. When children are feeling safe and secure, they are able to develop their intellectual skills.

Limitations in the children’s social interaction, communication with only a few people and a lack of influences from an early age can affect their intellectual development. Children learn many things from their environment, their close and extended family and their friends. Growing up surrounded by meaningful relationships promotes the development of children.

# 13 of 19 – Factors that affect intellectual development – financial aspects

Wealth is not as important as love and security for a child. However, financial aspects can affect a child’s intellectual development. Families that are living in poverty or facing issues concerning their livelihood, often cannot provide adequate stimulation for the children.

Stimulation happens when children come into contact with new exciting things that they can see, hear or do. While stimulation can often cost money, for example music classes can be expensive, there are many ways to stimulate children through free activities. For example, visits to museums, picnics in the park, a fun day by the seaside or in a forest. The environment offers many opportunities for play and for developing the intellectual skills necessary for a child’s intellectual development.

# 14 of 19 – Question 1

Which of the following are intellectual skills?

1. Critical thinking
2. Problem solving
3. Concept development
4. Imagination

The correct answer is all of the above.

# 15 of 19 – Question 2

What is the intellectual skill that is described through the following process: receiving information, understanding information, memorising the information, and being able to recall the information?

1. Knowledge
2. Memory
3. Critical thinking
4. Reasoning
5. Problem solving

The correct answer is a) Knowledge.

# 16 of 19 – Question 3

Using the following choice of words: **time**, **memory**, **speaking**, **activities** and **explaining**, fill in the blanks for the five sentences below about the adult’s role in promoting intellectual development.

1. Spending **blank** with the children.
2. **Blank** with the children about what they are doing.
3. **Blank** why things happen.
4. Playing **blank** games.
5. Providing opportunities for interesting **blank** and visits.

The correct five paragraphs should read:

1. Spending **time** with the children.
2. **Speaking** with the children about what they are doing.
3. **Explaining** why things happen.
4. Playing **memory** games.
5. Providing opportunities for interesting **activities** and visits.

# 17 of 19 – Question 4

Which of the following factors can affect a child’s intellectual development?

1. A long-term illness
2. Owning a pet
3. Not being loved
4. Eating chocolate

The correct answers are a) and c) a long-term illness and not being loved.

# 18 of 19 – Question 5

Match each description below to the correct intellectual skill, either **imagination**, **concept development**, **critical thinking** or **reasoning**.

1. The ability to think about something in a logical and sensible way.
2. The ability to place different images in categories.
3. The ability to think about the information and analyse it.
4. The ability to picture things that are not in front of you.

The correct answers are:

1. The ability to think about something in a logical and sensible way is a description of **reasoning**.
2. The ability to place different images in categories is a description of **concept development**.
3. The ability to think about the information and analyse it is a description of **critical thinking**.
4. The ability to picture things that are not in front of you is a description of **imagination**.

# 19 of 19 – End

Well done, you have completed this session on the factors and skills involved in a child’s intellectual development.

You should now be able to:

* List the areas of a child’s development
* Understand what intellectual development involves
* List the intellectual skills involved in a child’s intellectual development
* Identify the factors that affect the intellectual development of children

If you have any questions about anything covered in this session, please speak to your tutor for more help.