Chapter 5 - The First Two Years: Biosocial Development Study Questions

1. Explain the changes that are occurring within the brain during the first two years of life.

2. Explain the nature of visual acuity in the newborn. Describe the changes that occur over the first 3 to 4 months of life.

3. List at least six short and long term consequences of nutritional deficiencies in early childhood.

4. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of breast-feeding over bottle-feeding.

5. Malnutrition can be devastating to a child’s development. Outline the symptoms of marasmus and offer methods that could be used to prevent it.

6. Distinguish between marasmus and kwashiorkor. Explain the causes and consequences of each.

7. Examine parent/child sleeping practices from two different cultural perspectives. What is the reason for the particular practice in each culture? What is your perspective on sleeping practices? Why?

8. Describe the effects that maternal stress during pregnancy can have on the infant. What are the possible long term consequences of maternal stress during pregnancy?

9. Describe how the brain attempts to protect itself under circumstances of adversity during development. How might it try to compensate for a lack of stimulation, for neglect, and for maltreatment?

10. Describe the importance of percentile ranks and how they are used in explaining differences in development.

11. Describe experience-expectant brain function and experience-dependent brain function. Explain how these functions differ and how important each one is for brain development.

12. Describe how developed each of the five senses is at birth and how the senses develop over the first two years of life.