Activities for Developmental Psychology Unit

DP-WS1-122199-50

I. Ask three children (under 10) of different ages the following questions

A. Where does the sun go at night?
B. Could you become a girl (boy) if you want to?
C. What are clouds made of?
D. How old do you think I am?
E. Where do dreams come from?
F. Does your brother (sister) have any brothers (sisters)?
G. Does your mother have a mother?
H. Were your parents ever little?
I. What makes the leaves fall off the trees?
J. Billy got mad while he has eating. He threw one glass on the floor and broke it. John was helping his mother clean cupboards. He accidently tripped and broke six glasses he was carrying. Who was more naughty - Billy or John?

II. Draw a time line which represents your life up to this point. Mark in important events in your life on it. BE SPECIFIC! If you need to, ask your parents for information on your early childhood. Then continue the line in a different color ink to reflect how you expect your life to progress through adulthood. Write significant events in the order in which you expect them to occur. Respond to the following questions based on your timeline:

A. What does your time line tell you about yourself?
B. How different would you be if you could have changed one or two events along your line?
C. How flexible or fixed does your future seem do be?

III. What is your earliest childhood memory?

A. How old were you at the time?
B. Why, do you think you recall this as your first memory?

IV. You Are a Parent: For each of the following listed below:

A. State your immediate or natural response as a parent then,
B. Explain a more ideal response.

1. Three year old child is terrified of thunder.
2. Four year old screams and carries on in a doctor's office while getting a shot.
3. Five year old wets his/her bed.
4. Four year old cries on the first day of nursery school and won't let the parent leave.
5. Six year old won't share his/her toys when a friend comes to play.
6. Five year old starts to beat up a playmate.
7. Six year old lies about spilling juice on the rug.
8. Five year old says he/she hates their younger sister.
V. Describe how you think the ideal child should be and/or behave at the following ages:

A. 2 years old  
B. 7 years old  
C. 12 years old  
D. 17 years old

VI. Adolescence is seen by many as a time for experimentation and discovery about oneself. Assuming you agree with this:

A. As a parent, what limits would you place on this experimentation?  
B. What conflicts do you foresee?  
C. How much of a penalty would you impose on your child for breaking the rules?  
D. How much of a penalty would you allow your child to pay for their experimenting?

VII. Define maturity:

A. Possible criteria - age  
   1. leaving home  
   2. earning a living  
   3. marriage  
   4. bearing children

VIII. Which do you feel are the "best" years of your life and which do you feel are the "worse" years of your life? Explain the reasons for your feeling as best you can.

A. childhood  
B. adolescence  
C. young adulthood  
D. middle age  
E. old age

IX. Parenting

A. In your own words describe what being a parent entails.  
B. In light of this project and your answers explain how your views on parenting may have changed.