

Essay Questions

Chapter 2

- 1) What are the developmental advantages and disadvantages of children whose parents have them when they are young (e.g. teens or early twenties) compared to when they are old (e.g. late thirties)? Why is it difficult to research this question?

Suggested Response:

- Taking care of infants is physically challenging and it is thought that older first-time mothers might not be up to the demands.
- Younger mothers are known to have less knowledge about parenting, to have less desirable childrearing attitudes, to have less realistic expectations about infant development than older mothers and they are less sensitive, appropriate, and responsive to their infants.
- Parenting differences between younger and older mothers in our culture could be due, in part, to educational differences.

- 2) What are the difficulties in evaluating the developmental impact of different nonparental child care settings?

Suggested Response:

- Nature and quality of care vary widely across centers, homes, and babysitters.
- Infants are not randomly assigned to daycare and exclusive parental care.
- Group differences that might be attributed to daycare may instead be due to variation in the values and behaviors of parents and the communities in which they live.