

Sharing Space: Prenatal Stimulation News

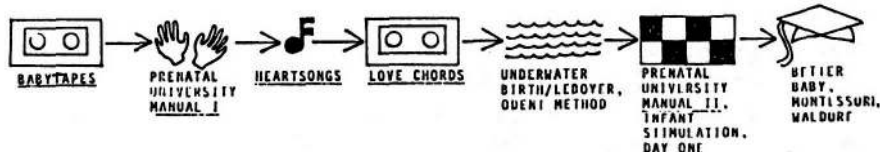
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Abstract: None available.

Full Text: PROJECT PRELEARN: PHASE I-OUTCOMES AT SIX MONTHS By a half year following his birth, the first infant stimulated in-utero with sequenced sonic variations of maternal heartbeat-a curricular approach had virtually completed the Clinical Linguistic and Auditory Milestone Scale (CLAMS) two-year inventory (see charts on next two pages). Of 25 developmental stages, the boy had achieved 23: at 22 weeks his receptive score demonstrated 13 months' precedence before the norm, eight beyond gifted children, and by 27 weeks expressive figures showed about 14 months prior to average, one year above the population's top ten percent. In comparison with a midpoint of 85 on the CLAMS developmental quotient (DQ)-superior about 100-he attained 336. Confirmation of the testing method was made with CLAMS author, Arnold J. Capute, M.D., Johns Hopkins University professor of pediatrics. IQ testing could coincide with the child's first birthday in July. PROJECT PRELEARN: PHASE II-NEW BIRTHS Of seven additional gravidae enriching their unborns through the Cardiac Curriculum, eight neonates-including identical twins-are all accomplishing developmental milestones on the CLAMS assessment congruent with Project Prelearn's Phase I results (above); comparative charts will appear in the next issue of Prenatal Stimulation News. One measure of difference is based on eyeblinks as markers of information processing (see Psychology Today's March article, pages 8-10), some 10-15 per minute in adults, less than one for newborns; Project Prelearn neonates register 3-11, a majority toward the upper figure. All infants in the pilot study exhibit a consistent range of characteristics, including birth with eyes, hands, and arms open; no crying, relaxed bodies; firm grip; steady smiles; considerable neck strength; greater coordination; long attention spans; immediate parental voice recognition; alertness to sounds; vocalization of material heard prenatally; Apgar scores of 9; superior breastfeeding; improved bonding to mother, father, and siblings. No matter whether the newborn's length was below, at, or above the norm, cranial circumference always figured better than the average for each category. Every family expressed strong support for prelearning, and extreme enthusiasm at their child's initial performance. THE STIMULATION SPECTRUM A continuum of early education now exists with supplements to the Prelearning Program: Prenatal University's Manual I; Leon Thurman's parental singing cassette, Heartsongs; Thomas Verny and Sandra Collier's slow music recording, Loi/e Chords; underwater or alternative birthing; Susan Ludington's infant stimulation; Prenatal University's Manual II; New Horizons for Learning's Day One; the Institute for the Advancement of Human Potential's Better Baby program; and progressive schools like Montessori or Waldorf. In complementing each other, these resources build upon a prelearning base for optimizing individual potential cognitively and behaviorally with such success as to constitute an entirely new way of instructing children; Babytapes-trade name for the Cardiac Curriculum and centerpiece to the Prelearning Program-enhances all subsequent stimuli, that relationship sequenced pictorially as follows:



ISPPPM Congress The Ninth International Society for Prenatal and Perinatal Psychology and Medicine

Congress will be held in Jerusalem, March 1989; a paper by PIEI Director, Brent Logan, "Project Prelearn: The

Efficacy of In Utero Teaching," has been invited, and a prenatal stimulation panel discussion proposed. PPPANA Congress The Pre and Perinatal Psychology Association of North America's Fourth Congress will take place in Amherst, Massachusetts, August 1989; Brent Logan has submitted an abstract for Project Prelearn's first year results, "Infant Outcomes of a Prenatal Stimulation Pilot Study," a panel examining in utero enrichment is planned. Musical Stimulation Before Birth The may issue of Omni reports on Donald Shetler's work with 30 prenatates exposed to simple and repeated classical music selections for a few minutes daily. Over half the infants moved limbs in rhythm to the stimulation rate. Postnatally, besides early musical ability, "the development of highly organized and remarkably articulate speech" distinguishes the children. "Tiny Dancers" appears on page 122. Stimulation Retards Ageing Deficits Neonatal handling of rats has been demonstrated to prevent or delay degenerative glucocorticoid cascade which marks rodent ageing, specifically affecting hippocampal neuron loss (Science, February 12, pages 766-768). These results accord with benefits derived from even earlier stimulation in both animals and humans. Japanese Stimulation Interest Rene Van de Carr, M.D., President of Prenatal University, relates extremely favorable response in Japan to Newsweek's November 2 article about his program; such reaction may arise from that culture's long history of special attention to the prenatate, taikyo. Brent Logan is involved in a translation project to inform Western audiences about this ancient practice. Project Prelearn to the Soviet Academy The first data from PIEI's neonatal evaluation of infants stimulated with the Cardiac Curriculum was given in April to the Soviet Academy of Science's Vice President; along with an offer to assist in replicating the study, Igor Charkovsky-underwater birthing pioneer-received similar materials. Heterochronic Mutation Implicit in an October Discover article (pages 44-54) concerning fetal cell death is how in utero stimulation permanently alters the individual's developmental program by functionally amplifying cerebral neurons, thus accounting for extraordinary advances in cognitive and behavioral performance. Parallel research about the roles of protein and nerve growth factor (NGF) on cell death appear in the December 5 issue of Science News, page 360. An Autistic Clue The first definitive evidence linking autism to a specific central nervous system dysfunction was recently identified in The New England Journal of Medicine; the sixth and seventh vermal lobules in the cerebellum were found about 25% smaller in autistic subjects. Since autism figures prominently in savantism, the vermis may well be a fruitful site to examine for developmental differences caused by inutero stimulation. A Prenatal Source for Savantism? In "The Idiot Savant: A Review of the Syndrome" (Journal of the American Psychiatric Association, May, pages 563-572), Darold Treffert explores assorted reasons for the phenomenon, notably prebirth development affecting neural structure. "The Education Summit" "A Conference on Lifelong Learning," sponsored by New Horizons for Learning, included a prenatal presentation by Thomas Verny, Marian Diamond on "Enriching Heredity," and "How Parents Can Nurture Intelligence" by Beatrice Manriquez; this event was held June 25-29/88 at George Mason University, Fairfax, Virginia. Back Issues Available Copies of former Prenatal Stimulation News issues may be obtained without charge; write PIEI, 2000 Lake Street, Snohomish, WA 98290. Sidebar Furnished by the Prenatal and Infant Education Institute, 2000 Lake Street, Snohomish, Washington, 98290.

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