Students in cognitive development learn to apply knowledge and communicate effectively through blog posts for parents

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Learning objectives of PSY 1330: Cognitive Development

• Introduction to central topics in cognitive development (e.g., language, memory)
• Reading original research papers
• Critically evaluating original research
• Impact of research findings for
  – Students themselves
  – Parents
  – Educators
  – Society
Written assignment sequence

• Assignments 1 and 2:
  – Read and summarize integrative empirical paper
  – Identify limitation and propose follow-up study

• Assignment 3:
  – Read popular press article and associated original research paper
  – Critically evaluate popular press article
Assignment 4
Sample toy – My Pal Scout®

- Ages 6-36 months
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e-PPD5xAiM
Assignment 4

• Select and describe educational toy
• Evaluate advertised claims based on research
  – 6- to 7-page paper for peers and instructor
  – Blog post for parents, published on Kids’ Thinking Lab website and Facebook page

• Provide constructive feedback to peers
• Incorporate feedback from peers in revisions
Evaluating the effectiveness of Assignment 4

• Pre- and post-assignment surveys
  – Timeline of developmental milestones
  – Ratings of student confidence and enjoyment
  1. How confident do you feel in your abilities to read and understand scientific research articles about cognitive development?
  2. How confident do you feel in your abilities to explain cognitive development topics to people who are interested but don’t necessarily work in research, such as a parent or early childhood educator?
  3. Do you ever read about cognitive development studies in the news, on social media, or in books for fun?
  4. Do you find learning about cognitive development interesting?
  5. Do you think learning about cognitive development can be relevant to your life?
Evaluating the effectiveness of Assignment 4

• Pre- and post-assignment surveys
  – Timeline of developmental milestones
  – Ratings of student confidence and enjoyment
  – Evaluate the educational benefits of an educational video clip
Evaluating the effectiveness of Assignment 4

• Pre- and post-assignment surveys
  – Timeline of developmental milestones
  – Ratings of student confidence and enjoyment
  – Evaluate the educational benefits of an educational video clip
  – Describing relevant research findings discussed in class to a layperson
Evaluating the effectiveness of Assignment 4

• Post-assignment survey only:
  1. Did you find the paper portion of the assignment interesting?
  2. Did you find the blog portion of the assignment interesting?
  3. You also reviewed your peers’ assignments. Did you find reviewing their assignments interesting?
  4. Was receiving peer feedback on your own assignment helpful?
  5. In the future, if you wanted to buy an educational children’s toy, how likely are you to carefully look at the details of the advertised claims?
  6. How likely are you to purchase an educational children’s toy because of the advertised claims?