

WHERE DID THAT COME FROM

At present, many, discussions of cognitive development start at the observation of primitive reflexes. I propose, and will discuss, that cognitive development starts at the union of sperm and ovum and stops at death.

When the sperm and ovum unite there is an immediate flurry of cellular activity to evolve a structural foundation which will house this cellular activity and which we can call the **PRIMITIVE BODY**. This stage, which we can call **The FABRICATION STAGE**, is the period for the construction of bodily structures such as the hinges, the wires, the pulleys, the ropes, the sticks, the poles, the gears and all of the other mechanical parts of the hardware which later we refer to as **THE BODY** and all that it contains. Of course, at this time, these structures are rudimentary structures and will be strengthened and better formed later in life. The primitive reflexes probably start at this time and continue developing till birth. After birth these reflexes integrate with general body movement for further movement intelligence to be constructed.

In-utero development continues and eventually the fetus becomes aware, at a preconscious level, of sensorial stimulation. There is now in the developing fetus a **PRIMITIVE BODY** and **SENSORIAL** awareness. Combination of the two gives us **CONGENITAL REACTION**. The fetus is now taking form and is starting to function at an action-reaction, but not thinking level. This is when the fetus demonstrates a flurry of activity when the mother lies down on her back after a hard morning of shopping or when tapping on the mother's abdomen results in the fetus pounding on that same area which can be felt externally when one places their hand on the mother's abdomen. Or the fetus exhibits some unexpected activity when the mother is exposed to certain sounds or odors. This is all preconscious activity of the developing fetus and may be more properly referred to as reaction rather than action.

As time goes on the fetus shows signs of recognition of **SENSORIAL** awareness by the fetus' responses. Some mothers report that the fetus exhibits excitement when the father's voice is expressed in the presence of the unborn fetus. It is unclear if the fetus recognizes the sound of the father's voice but certainly the fetus' response is one of reaction rather than conscious action. Other mothers report that the baby after birth will respond favorably to a melody which the fetus had been exposed to continuously in utero. So now, in utero, we have **BODY**, **SENSORIAL** and now **AFFECT**. The combination of all three we could call **GENETIC KNOWLEDGE, BIOLOGICAL INTELLIGENCE, or PRIMITIVE KNOWING**. It is very possible that the fetus immediate to pre birth has conscious cognitive function, not thinking as we adults have, but a primitive form of knowing.

The baby is finally born and is no longer referred to as a fetus. Now the baby is exposed to a multitude of new experiences and must rely upon itself to make these new experiences meaningful so that this **PRIMITIVE KNOWLEDGE** expands into further cognitive development. So now, after birth, we have **PRIMITIVE KNOWLEDGE** which combines with **EXPERIENCE** to form our **INTELLECT** (very primitive at this point) and when **INTELLECT** and **AFFECT** are combined the result is **SELF**. Self then continues to construct brain through brain plasticity and the now infant gradually continues to develop in both affect and intellect into adult life.