

Infants operational at age two hours

He's only two hours old, yet he can see. He can hear, taste and even smell. He has a whole set of reflexes working that will help guarantee his survival.

Before two months he can recognize important aspects of the world around him. He sees things happen and can in fact make them happen and he can adapt. What's more, well before he's a year old the human infant can think.

Dr. Jerome Kagan, Professor of Child Development at Harvard University who has for several years been conducting studies on early childhood, says recent findings may cause us to change much of our thinking about the newborn.

Early awareness

Obviously he is not as insensitive to what goes on around him as we have thought him to be.

"Our research on the first year of life has made us change a lot of our thinking on what the infant can do. Accordingly we've changed many of our ideas about the parent's role and the importance of interaction."

"While the child needs love and affection from the moment he's brought to a mother's side, he also needs to be given interesting things to do, to see, to hear and to feel. He needs opportunities to use the abilities he has: to respond, to move, to manipulate things and to explore." And mother or father should be there to provide them, according to Dr. Kagan.

Dr. Kagan, who is a consultant to Fisher-Price, the world's largest producer of preschool toys, was instrumental in convincing the company to develop a line of crib and playpen toys. The toys that are being introduced this year are designed expressly for the infant.

Answers needs

Toys, he said, can provide some of the novelty and stimulation the child needs. But more important is that they help mother interact with her child, to play with him.

"They give her 'things' she and her child can do, thus bringing them closer together. And this is healthy for both parent and child."

"The typical infant becomes sensitive to novelty somewhere around eight weeks of age, in fact he thrives on it," Dr. Kagan said. "It becomes good fun to play peek-a-boo around that time because the baby responds usually with smiles or laughter or the sounds that show he is enjoying it."

On target

"This will happen pretty much on target if the child is in an environment where there is plenty of interaction with his parents and interesting things to see and play with," Professor Kagan said. "But if his environment is bland and unstimulating, he may not reach this stage until he is 12, 14 or even 16 weeks."

The child begins to think some time between 10 and 12 months of age. By think-



VERSATILE RATTLE LETS CHILD EXPLORE, discover. Unique rattle provides interesting things for child to do, see, hear. Bright-colored beads make noise as they sift through hourglass-shaped toy. Safety mirror on one end for peek-a-boos; the other end is see-through. Soft vinyl edges and handle for chewing, tough unbreakable plastic for extra safety. 2 months - 18 months. A Fisher-Price Crib & Playpen toy.



SOFT TOUCH, SWEET SOUNDS of this lovable toy help child interact more fully with parents. Huggable musical chime bear rocks at a touch and chimes when it moves. It has a soft, quality plush body with cotton face, paws and ears. Baby can chew it and Mother can wash it. 3 months - 4 years. A Fisher-Price Crib & Playpen toy.

ing, Dr. Kagan means the baby tries to interpret, to understand why something is the way it is.

"If, for instance, we heard something that sounded like a human voice," Professor Kagan explained, "typically, as adults, we would label it as a voice, but we might also try to interpret it. Why does that voice sound so odd? Maybe the person has laryngitis, or something

wrong with his voice box. That process — that interpretation — develops somewhere toward the end of the baby's first year."

Important time

These two stages, the attraction to novelty around eight weeks of age and the beginnings of thought somewhere around 11 months of age, parallel stages in the baby's speech development, according to

Professor Kagan.

Cooing and vocalizing begin at about the time novelty becomes an attraction, he said. The variety of sounds the infant makes grows until he's about 11 months of age.

Then as the beginnings of thought develop, the variety in the sounds the child makes is reduced to those in his language. About a month later the child says

his first word. "The timing is beautiful, like the creation of a painting or a work of art."

"These two milestones are maturational," Professor Kagan reiterated. "That means that the child can be ahead or behind in these two sequences, depending on the nature of the parent/child interaction and how the child is stimulated."

Seniors hold party

by Gloria Wroten

December 22 marked the fifth annual Senior Adults Christmas party held at the Matt Dishman Center. Mrs. Josephine Franklin, organizer and founder of the annual Christmas event, stated that there were many senior citizens who did not receive Christmas baskets and who were "really lonely and needed something to do."

Mrs. Franklin created the idea of an annual Christmas dinner devoted to these Senior Adults. "We wanted them to know that someone really did care about them," Mrs. Franklin remarked.

The annual Christmas dinner was founded before the Senior Adult Service Center was established. The idea behind the Christmas dinner was to "get more of the young in the community involved in this project," Mrs. Franklin stated. She furthered her statement by saying "so many of the old people don't think that anyone cares for them. So we try to get the young people working with them... to show them that people really do care for them."

In addition to the Christmas dinner, many of the senior citizens provided entertainment for their fellow citizens. "So many of them have talents — I think that it would be a shame to have it all wasted. So we encourage the people to become a part of the entertainment," Mrs. Franklin said.

In addition to the 300 senior adults attending the event, Governor Tom McCall also made an appearance wishing for peace and happiness in the coming year.

SPORTS

by Harold Johnson

The Portland Trail Blazers hope to close out the year of 1973 by smashing a couple of old jinxes.

Then hopefully they will start the new year by winning a battle of the NBA's two most improved teams.

The Blazers hit the road tonight, December 27, against Golden State in Oakland and Friday night, December 28, in Seattle against the Super Sonics. That game will be televised live and in color (no pun intended) back to Portland on KPTV, Channel 12.

The Blazers will then return to Memorial Coliseum for a game Sunday night, December 30, against the always tough Chicago Bulls and on New Year's night against the NBA's leading scorer, Bob McAdoo, and the Buffalo Braves.

About those jinxes! The Blazers have never beaten Golden State in Oakland — eight visits, eight losses.

And the Blazers never have whipped the Bulls of Chicago in the Coliseum, and that's no bull — nine games, nine defeats.

Other jinxes have been snapped this season — first victory over Los Angeles, first win at home over Phoenix.

Other modes of interest that I hope to relate along

with keeping you abreast of the professional sport circles is High School Athletics. These brothers and company get down. Sure it's hard for some who have set their whole high school existence behind them to take time and follow and support those still finding their parallel — but for those who still have a vein, and I still do, I'll keep you tuned.

There also are a lot of positive hits coming out of the community. The good influences I'll keep coming to you, which flashes me on what I think is one of the most positive influences that comes to mind — me!

First, though it may be hard to explain through this column, or, one may not read this exactly as I would read it or interpret it, but first understanding that there is a thin line between being conceited and being truthful — I am simply bringing out the truthful side of that line. So, eliminating the whole concept of conceitment, I will at times parallel myself with different instances, in order that I might give one a degree of insight to which I am coming from, so one could see and understand which way I am going. What could possibly follow that?

CHEERS

Here's to a New Year filled with good luck, health and happiness. It's a pleasure to know you and serve you!

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How to choose tools

If you are just starting some do-it-yourself type jobs, and want to get some power tools to help on these projects, the General Services Administration can help you decide what to get first and suggest what to look for when you go shopping.

Power Hand Tools, the 16th, book in GSA's Consumer Information Series, discusses the most common power tools for home use, gives selection tips, and suggestions for safe use. Copies are available for 40 cents from Consumer Information, Pueblo, Colorado 81009.

Probably the first power tool you should consider getting is an electric drill. With various attachments, you can drill holes, drive screws, stir paint, sand rough surfaces, sharpen other tools, and even polish the car.

Other tools can also help with your chores: • Use a finishing sander to prepare surface for painting or varnishing. A finishing sander can be used on wood furniture, metal, or plaster, but it isn't usually suitable for large areas or to remove deep dents, scratches, or paint.

• To smooth large surfaces like floors, walls or planks, use a belt sander. However, because it works so quickly, it can cause damage if not used with care.

• Use a circular saw to make straight cuts in building materials easily and quickly. With different blades, it can

cut stone, ceramics, fiber glass and metal.

• A jig, or saber saw has a long, slender blade. You use it to make curved or intricate cuts. However, jig saws do not make straight cuts as accurately or as quickly as circular saws.

But whatever kind of power tool you buy, be sure the tool has a symbol indicating it meets the Underwriters' Laboratories' electrical safety standards. A seal from the Power Tool Institute means the tool meets safety standards, has been inspected under power in the factory, and has instructions for safe use.

For electrical safety, check your electrical outlets before you buy any tool. If your house has grounded three hole outlets, you can buy tools with three prong plugs or double insulated tools. If you only have two hole outlets, you should get the double insulated tools, with two prong plugs. Both types cost about the same to buy and maintain.

And be sure to keep children away from all power tools, whether they are in use or being stored.

Power Hand Tools (40c) is one of more than 200 Federal publications of consumer interest listed in the **Consumer Information Index**.

Mexican cooking meatless

Meatless cookery takes on interest and zest when given a Mexican accent, and the technique is not difficult to learn.

Preparation of enchiladas, tacos, chile rellanos, stuffed zucchini, guacamole, and other traditional Mexican dishes will be taught in "Meatless Mexican Cookery," a course to be offered by Portland Community College

Educational Services.

Taught by Ms. Bridget Merle, the five-week course will begin Tuesday, January 8, from 7 to 10 p.m. in room 8 at Tigard High School, 9000 SW Durham Road. The fee is \$12.50.

For more information call Portland Community College, Community Educational Services in Tigard, 639-6110.

Pageant seeks teens

Maureen Ann Flynn of Lakeview will crown her successor in the Miss Oregon Teen-Ager Pageant on July 5 and 6 at the Sheraton Motor Inn in Portland. Maureen has reigned as Miss Oregon Teen-Ager since July 28th, when she won her title over 51 other contestants. The following girls have already been certified as contestants for the 1974 pageant:

Marijo Kathleen Mangum, 16, Cottage Grove; Sharilee Metteer, 16, Madras; Debra Nafziger, 16, Aloha; Shawn Reilly, 15, Forest Grove; Ellen Carol Smith, 16, Forest Grove; Deanna Wallace, 15, Salem; and Kathleen Marie Walters, 17, Beaverton.

All girls between the ages of 13 and 17 are eligible to enter, regardless of race, creed or color. Judging is based on scholastic achievements, civic contributions, poise, personality and appearance. There is no talent or swim suit competition.

In the state competition, scholarships totaling \$1,500 will be awarded. The state winner also receives a 6 day, all expense paid trip to Atlanta, Georgia to compete with the other state winners for the title of Miss National Teen-Ager. In the National Finals, cash scholarships totaling \$10,000 will be awarded as well as a new automobile and an exciting trip abroad. In the 1973 National Finals Miss Oregon Teen-Ager placed among the top 15 finalists.

In addition to the regular judging, each contestant is asked to write an essay on the pageant theme "What's Right About America". These essays are judged by a separate panel of judges and awards are given.

For your application form, write Miss National Teen-Ager, Box 406, Rockton, Illinois 61072. Don't wait and miss out on this exciting opportunity.



Cicely Tyson says:
"The spotlight's on birth defects... it's time for you to act!"



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