Chapter 1 Vocab

# Child development

An area of study devoted to understanding constancy and change from conception through adolescence

# Development science

Interdisciplinary field which includes all changes we experience throughout the lifespan

# Theory

An orderly, integrated set of statements that describes, explains, and predicts behavior

# continuous

A process of gradually adding more of the same types of skills that were there to begin with

# Discontinuous

A process in which new ways of understanding and responding to the world emerge at specific times

# Stages

Qualitative changes in thinking, feeling, and behavior that characterize specific periods of development

# Contexts

Unique combinations of personal and environmental circumstances that can result in different paths of change

# Nature-nurture controversy

The debate between those who believe development is influenced solely by genetics and those who believe it is solely influenced by environmental factors

# Plasticity

Open to change in response to influential experiences

# maturation

A genetically determined, naturally unfolding course of growth

# Normative approach

Measures of behavior are taken on large numbers of individuals and age-related averages are computed to represent typical development

# Psychoanalytic perspective

Children move through a series of stages in which they confront conflicts between biological drives and social expectations

# Psychosexual theory

Emphasizes that how parents manage their child’s sexual and aggressive drives in the first few years is crucial for healthy personality development