

ASSIGNMENT 2

SW [REDACTED]

Please read the three part case study of Baby Kelly and Family.

Answer the following –

Part 1 - answer 2 questions.

Part 2 - answer 2 questions

Part 3 - answer 1 question.

Please answer these questions based on the theory of life span development in Infancy. Answers should not be based on your opinion.

Thank you.

[REDACTED]

Case 2: Baby Kelly and Family

Part I

Baby Kelly was born at thirty-four weeks of gestational age weighing a little over four pounds in the early fall. His Mom and Dad are in their late thirties. He has a proud 7-year-old brother, Chris, who is in second grade and a 3-year-old sister, Alex, who attends a full day preschool. Kelly doesn't look 'pretty' like Alex's baby dolls, tends to get over-stimulated, and cries in a very high pitch. During his four week hospital stay, the family would visit every evening, with Mom typically at the hospital during the day.

At the family's evening hospital visit, Alex would play with her baby doll, commenting on how beautiful and good her doll was. Chris expressed his dislike for visiting Kelly in the hospital because it smelled bad and he had to be quiet. He would rather play with his friends after dinner like he normally did. His constant resistance and Alex's comments put Mom and Dad in irritable moods.

Mom would become frustrated while visiting Kelly in the hospital because he was difficult to soothe. An experienced mother, she was unable to do what she anticipated with Kelly - the rocking, cuddling, soothing. When Dad arrived in the evening, he would take over for Mom, soothing Kelly by singing softly to him in his low singing voice and gently rubbing his arms and legs.



Contextual Analysis Questions

1. What impact does Kelly's stay in the neonatal nursery have on the family?
 - A. Mom
 - B. Dad
 - C. Chris
 - D. Alex
2. How does the physical environment of the hospital impact the development of mutuality between Mom and Dad and Kelly?
3. What could be some differences between a full term baby's ability to form an attachment and premature infant's ability to form an attachment?



Psychosocial Analysis Questions

1. Parental sensitivity is critical to an infant's development of attachment. How does the life stage and developmental tasks of Baby Kelly's parents influence his development?

Part II

Currently, Mom and Dad have successful careers. As a dual career couple, their plan was to enroll Kelly in child care. They already reserved a space in the infant room at the same center where Alex goes to pre-school. According to the policy he is able to attend when he turns 6 weeks old. Mom has a four week maternity leave, so for the two week gap, grandparents and a neighbor agreed to help with Kelly's care. With Kelly being premature, these plans have changed.

Kelly's underdeveloped lungs and digestive system require special care. His small size and big needs make his grandparents and the neighbor nervous. They are not sure they can take care of Kelly when he returns home from the hospital. In addition, the child care center will no longer take Kelly due to his high needs. Mom and Dad soon discovered that there are no other openings for infants at other local centers. Mom and Dad struggle to make decisions about Kelly and the family. Their concerns focus on the balance between their professional development and growth and making decisions that strengthen their family life.

After determining that Mom can take a one-year leave of absence from her position, she decides to stay home and focus her attention on Baby Kelly. This decision requires a 'shift' in household responsibilities.



Contextual Analysis Questions

1. How are Baby Kelly's needs influencing the family?
2. In what ways will the lack of child care for Baby Kelly influence the family, especially the parenting of his siblings, Chris and Alex?
3. If you were one of Baby Kelly's grandparents or his neighbor, how would you respond to providing child care? What resources would make you feel more comfortable providing care to a premature infant?



Psychosocial Analysis Questions

1. In terms of establishing a structure in family routines, what might be some advantages to Mom staying home for one year to provide care for Kelly? What might be some of the disadvantages?
2. What strategies would you suggest to establish a sense of trust in Baby Kelly?

Part III

Kelly is now 6 months old. He still has some respiratory issues and is about one month behind developmentally in motor skills, which is actually advanced for a baby born at 34 weeks. Kelly has lots of dark brown hair and often wakes up with some of it sticking straight up in the air to the amusement of his siblings.

Older siblings, Chris and Alex enjoy playing with Kelly after school and in early evenings. But there have been three times when Kelly has had to be taken to the emergency room in the night, and this makes Chris and Alex very worried. They wonder whether Kelly might die. Chris tries to reassure Alex, but Alex has bad dreams about Kelly being lost in a big bundle of sheets and blankets.

Dad tends to be more physical in his play and tries to incorporate Kelly into outdoor activities with Chris and Alex, like going to the park or playing ball. Mom worries that keeping Kelly outside too much will expose him to respiratory infections, but she wants him

to become part of family playtime. If either Chris or Alex has a cold or cough, Mom won't let them hold Kelly.

Mom is sleep deprived as Kelly does not sleep through the night. He often wakes up with a screaming cry and takes a while to be soothed. Mom tends to sing softly and rock Kelly in the rocking chair. Dad tries to help by making Chris and Alex breakfast in the mornings. Although Dad was successful in soothing Kelly while he was in the hospital, now he doesn't have much time with Kelly and feels frustrated that he can't really read Kelly's signals all that well.



Psychosocial Analysis Questions

1. Do you think Kelly is developing the prime adaptive ego quality of hope? Or the core pathology of withdrawal? Why?
2. What are some ways to establish a feeling of mutuality or meeting Baby Kelly's needs appropriately? Establish a sense of consistency in responding to his needs?