Core Studies

- **Samuel & Bryant**: Cognitive Development
- **Bandura**: Learned Aggression
- **Freud**: Phobia of a 5 year old
ASSUMPTIONS of Developmental Psychology

• Assumes that development is an ongoing process over a person’s lifetime

• Changes occur as children & adults develop as a result of inherited factors (genetics) or environmental factors. Nature-Nurture debate is a key issue
STRENGTHS 1

• Demonstrates the influence on behaviour of internal and environmental factors. Eg:

• Samuel & Bryant referred to the role of maturation (Piaget) - an internal factor in cognitive development. Eg; ability to conserve improved with age. However, a supportive environment is required to enable this development.

• Longitudinal Studies provide rich data & allows study of an individual over time. Eg:

• Freud studied Hans over a period of time to get a full picture of his experiences contributing to his phobia of horses.
STRENGTHS 2

• Usefulness: understanding the psychological development of children has influenced practices for their cognitive & emotional well-being. Eg:

• Bandura’s study into SLT and how aggression can be imitated has led to debate about media influences on children’s behaviour.

• Recognises a number of perspectives in the development of children: cognitive, social, and emotional. Eg:

• Samuel & Bryant…. 
WEAKNESSES 1

• Ethical concerns such as lack of informed consent and vulnerability to harm or distress. Eg:

• Bandura’s study does not appear to obtain parental consent and exposes children to aggressive behaviour, and deliberate upset in stage 2 of the procedure.

• When children are studied over a long period of time researchers may be more subjective. Eg;

• In Freud’s study of Hans, interviews and conversations were interpreted according to Freud’s psychosexual theory of developmental and leading questions were used resulting in researcher bias.
WEAKNESSES 2

- Problems of studying children under laboratory conditions, where they are tested by strangers in strange environments. This can result in a lack of **ecological validity**. Eg:
  - Bandura:
  - Samuel & Bryant:
  - Difficult to replicate longitudinal studies. These can be time-consuming and expensive: Eg:
  - Freud:
ISSUES RELATED TO DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

- **Nature-Nurture Debate**: concerned with how far development is influenced by innate factors or environmental factors. Eg:
  - **Bandura**: learning (nurture)
  - **Freud**….?
  - **Samuel & Bryant** (Piaget)….?
- **Psychodynamic Approach**
- **Behaviourist Approach**