**Pupil Survey 1 – Pre-Lesson**

Our team at the University of Oxford are currently designing some science lessons for pupils of your age. The lessons relate to babies' brain development. We would like to ask some questions before you take part in the lessons so that we know how much you already know about this topic.

Don't worry if you find the questions tricky and don't know some or any of the answers. We aren't expecting you to know everything, and you can use the 'I don't know' option if you need to. Where there is no 'I don't know' option, just make your best guess and move on to the next question.

Your answers will be anonymous, meaning that nobody will be able to trace them back to you.  Thanks for taking part!

What is the name of your **school**? …………………………………………………………………………………..

What **year group** are you in? ……………………………….

What is the name of your **science teacher**? ………………………………………….………………

What is your **gender**? Please circle your answer. Male/Female/Other/Prefer not to say

Which **three words** would you use to **describe babies**?

…………………………………………………………………………….……………………………….…………………………………….

For the next 10 questions, please **circle the letter** next to the correct answer(s). If you don’t know the answer, circle the letter next to ‘I don’t know’ rather than guessing.

1. **What is the name of nerve cells in the brain?**

 A) Axons

B) Epithelial cells

C) Neurons

D) Lymphocytes

E) I don’t know.

1. **Which of the following is the best definition of neuroplasticity?**
2. The brain changes in size as a child grows.
3. The fixed structure of the brain during a person's life, which is not changed by their experiences.
4. Different parts of the brain are responsible for different functions, tasks or skills.
5. The brain’s ability to change and grow during a person's life because of their experiences.
6. I don't know.

## How do experiences shape the structure of the developing brain? SELECT ALL THE ANSWERS THAT ARE CORRECT.

1. They increase the number of neurons in the brain.
2. They influence which neural connections are strengthened and which are pruned away.
3. They decrease the number of connections between neurons.
4. They increase the number of connections between neurons.
5. I don't know.

## Why is it important for a caregiver to communicate and respond to their child with their voice, eye contact or touch? SELECT ALL THE ANSWERS THAT ARE CORRECT.

1. It helps the baby's brain to develop and grow.
2. It develops the relationship between the child and caregiver.
3. It helps the baby to learn how to concentrate.
4. It helps the baby to learn about how to take turns.
5. I don't know.

## When do children start playing a role in conversations?

1. When they are old enough to make recognisable words.
2. From birth.
3. When they can speak in whole sentences.
4. When they start to make babbling sounds (mamama or dada or bububu).
5. I don't know.
6. **How should a caregiver speak to a baby? SELECT ALL THE ANSWERS THAT ARE CORRECT.**

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1. They should speak fast.
2. They should exaggerate their facial expressions (make their facial expressions very clear and obvious).
3. They should use a sing-song tone of voice.
4. They should make their speech as complicated as possible.
5. They should keep repeating the same words.
6. I don't know.

## At what age do you think a child's brain is developing fastest?

1. Start of pregnancy to 2 years
2. 3 - 5 years
3. 6 - 10 years
4. 11 - 15 years
5. Develops evenly throughout childhood until adulthood
6. I don’t know.
7. **Which of the following affects how children develop during their first 5 years of life?**
8. A child’s genes.
9. A child’s environment (where they live, who looks after them and their everyday experiences).
10. A combination of both their genes and environment.
11. Neither their genes nor their environment.
12. I don’t know.
13. **When is the brain most sensitive to experiences?**
14. 0 - 5 years
15. 0 - 5 years and 11 - 25 years
16. 0 - 5 years and 10 - 15 years
17. 0 - 25 years
18. Throughout life
19. I don’t know.
20. **Which of the following has/ have an impact on an individual's resilience? SELECT ALL THE ANSWERS THAT ARE CORRECT.**
21. Their genes.
22. The number of people that can support them.
23. The number of difficult situations they experience.
24. Having a safe learning environment.
25. I don't know.

**Imagine you are asked to help look after a friend's 2-year-old child for the day. Explain what you can do to support the child's brain development as you play together. Give three different examples. You can write 'I don't know' if you need to.**

**1.**

**2.**

**3.**

**Thank you for answering our questions! We hope that you enjoy taking part in the lessons.**