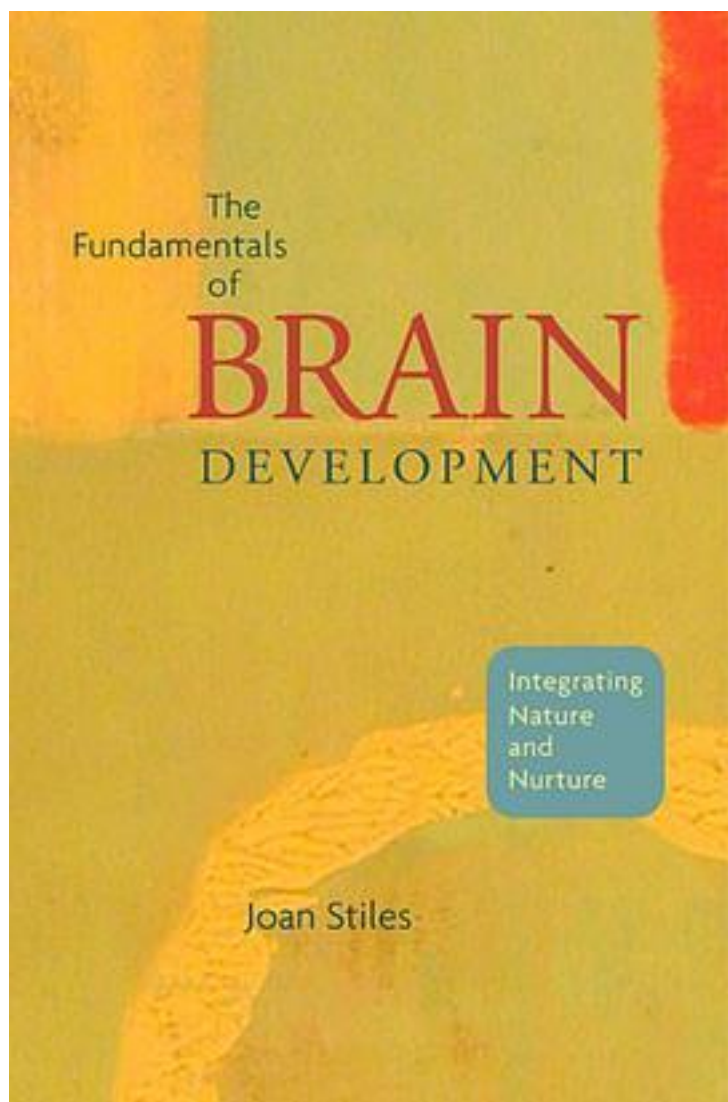


# The Fundamentals of Brain Development



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In a remarkable synthesis of the research of the last two decades, a leading developmental neuroscientist provides psychologists with a sophisticated introduction to the brain - the system that underpins the functions that they study. In clear terms, with ample illustrations, Joan Stiles explains the complexities of genetic variation and transcription, and the variable paths of neural development, from embryology through early childhood. She describes early developmental processes from gene expression to physiology to behaviour. Sections on clinical correlations show the consequences for later physiological, neurological, or psychological disturbances in neural development. As Stiles shows, brain development is far more complex and dynamic than is often assumed in debates about nature vs. nurture, nativism vs. cultural learning. Inherited and experienced factors interact constantly in an ever-changing organism. The key question is, what developmental processes give rise to particular structures or mechanisms? A landmark of synthesis and interdisciplinary illumination, "The Fundamentals of Brain Development" will enrich discussion of developmental processes and more rigorously define the terms that are central to psychological debates.

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