Jean Talairach. The standard by find 0792308131. Kluwer Academic Publishers. A Social to it and in development in infancy and early childhood” is a book of a Nato Workshop held in France in 1989. It contains 35 chapters detailing recent work on sensory-motor development. It attempts to specify the nature of the internal representations formed in infancy and early childhood. It considers the control of action, how it develops, and how action is related to sensory information. There is a new emphasis on dynamic properties of systems, on how the environment constrains actions (as emphasised by the Gibsonian school of psychologists), on how both internal representations and actions are related to the development (the “coming on line”) of different neural systems, and on the modelling of sensory-information is mapped between co-ordinate systems. These issues that have been faced in work on computational vision, and may be incorporated into the modelling in this field.

This book provides a good view of the state of the art for researchers interested in early childhood development. It is most definitely a research book, and not to be dipped into lightly by those not already familiar with some of the topics. But for those who are, and want to know where the research is currently headed, it provides a useful source.


The study of child development has long been dominated by the figure of Jean Piaget, and it is his proposal for the existence of discrete developmental stages that has provided the framework for much of the research in this field over the last 40 years. According to Piaget, the first stage of child development involves sensory-motor processing, in which stimuli are coded solely in terms of their sensory properties and the actions that may be made to them. How sensory data related to action, was not well specified.

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