

# **Learning in the Development of Action**

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The central problem for motor control is adaptation to variable and novel conditions. Movements cannot be performed in the same way over and over because possibilities for action are always changing. Behavioral flexibility is imperative so that motor decisions can be geared to the current constraints of the body and the environment. This presentation describes developmental changes in behavioral flexibility as infants learn to sit, crawl, cruise, and walk. Each posture operates like a separate balance control system. What infants learn in an earlier developing posture does not transfer to a later developing one. However, within postures, infants acquire learning sets that promote tremendous flexibility in response to variable and novel motor problems.