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The study of motor development is an interdisciplinary field, including neuroscience, psychology, and rehabilitation. Motor learning, the process of acquiring motor control, is an integral part of this relatively new science. Controversy exists and several models of motor control have been proposed. It is beyond the scope of this book to explore these theories; however, some elements appear to be generally accepted and provide a basis for understanding the process by which a baby develops motor skills in the first year of life.

Two types of mechanisms that control the execution of a movement have been described. A feedback or closed-loop type mechanism is one in which sensory information initiates and/or plays a direct role in the coordination of the movement.

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