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2.)

Yes, UNIX exec can return with an error. Some of the errors it can return with are the executable exists but cannot be accessed, the executable exists but can't be executed because of its lack of permissions, or the executable exists has permissions but the file is not in a recognized format. If I was in charge of creating this call I would still allow it to return errors because it gives the user a chance to fix the mistakes it made and what the mistakes could be during the troubleshooting process.

10.)

In the first program the child is created and makes the parent wait for its execution and in that interval runs val++ which gives the child value equal to 6. For the second program it runs pretty much the same in the parent waits for the child to run and come to the val of 6 but when the child exits the instruction the parent instruction then executes and gets the value of 6 at the end of the program.