

IMPORTANT LEARNING THEORIES



1. JEAN PIAGET

(Cognitive Development Theory)



Jean Piaget believed that children **actively construct knowledge** as they interact with their environment.



FOUR STAGES OF COGNITIVE DEVELOPMENT

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| 1 | | SENSORIMOTOR STAGE
(0–2 years) | Learning through senses and actions. |
| 2 | | PREOPERATIONAL STAGE
(2–7 years) | Symbolic thinking develops; egocentric view of the world. |
| 3 | | CONCRETE OPERATIONAL STAGE
(7–11 years) | Logical thinking about concrete objects and events. |
| 4 | | FORMAL OPERATIONAL STAGE
(11 years and above) | Abstract thinking and logical reasoning about hypothetical situations. |

KEY CONCEPTS



Schema – Mental framework for understanding.



Assimilation – Fitting new information into existing schemas.



Accommodation – Modifying schemas to include new information.



Egocentrism – Inability to see things from others' perspective (common in children).



2. LEV VYGOTSKY

(Sociocultural Development Theory)



Lev Vygotsky emphasized that **social interaction and culture** play a vital role in cognitive development.



KEY CONCEPTS



Zone of Proximal Development (ZPD)

The gap between what a child can do alone and what they can do with help.



Scaffolding

Temporary support provided by adults or peers to help children learn and then gradually removed.



More Knowledgeable Other (MKO)

A person who has more knowledge or experience and guides the child.



Language and Thought

Language plays a central role in shaping thought and cognitive development.



Summary: Piaget focuses on how children think and develop through stages. Vygotsky focuses on how social interaction and culture support learning.