

Piaget's Theory of Cognitive Development

Cognitive Development: the ways in which thinking and reasoning grow and change.

	Name of Stage	Approximate Age	
Stage One	Sensorimotor	Birth – ~2 years	At this young age knowledge is tied to movements and objects in the environment Lacks Object permanence: <u>awareness that objects continue to be when not perceived, hidden, will search for hidden objects</u>
Stage Two	Preoperational	2-6 years	At this point logical thought is still lacking; limited ability to see things from more than one perspective (egocentric); acquire language and the ability to use symbols. Lacks Reversibility: <u>the ability to work backwards through mental processes, undo</u> Lack Conservation: <u>the principle that a quantity remains the same despite changes in shape</u>
Stage Three	Concrete operational	7-11 years	In this stage the child understands <u>arithmetic, conservation, reversability</u>
Stage Four	Formal operational	12-adulthood	At this stage the ability to deal with <u>abstract concepts, understand imagined realities and symbolism, solving hypothetical propositions</u>