



# Piaget's Stages of Development



Jean Piaget's theory of cognitive development suggests that children progress through an invariant sequence of four stages. Piaget believed children take an active role in the learning process through observation and interacting with the world around them. These stages reflect qualitative differences in children's cognitive abilities.



## Sensorimotor



Birth to 2 years

The infant explores the world through their movements and sensations. Such as sucking, grasping, looking, and listening. Begins to mentally represent objects and events.

## Preoperational

Children begin to think symbolically and learn to use words and pictures to represent objects. Children have difficulty to see things from another person's point of view. While they are getting better with language and thinking, they still tend to think about things in very concrete terms.



Ages 2 to 7

## Concrete Operational



Ages 7 to 11

During this stage, children begin to think logically about concrete events. They begin to understand the concept of conservation; that the amount of liquid in a short, wide cup is equal to that in a tall, skinny glass, for example. Difficulty thinking hypothetically and considering all aspects of a problem.

## Formal Operational

At this stage, the adolescent or young adult begins to think abstractly and reason about hypothetical problems. Begin to use deductive logic, or reasoning from a general principle to specific information.



Ages 12 and up

## SOURCES

Cherry, K. (2018). The 4 Stages of Cognitive Development. <https://www.verywellmind.com/piagets-stages-of-cognitive-development-2795457>

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