

Cognitive Development

Cognition is a term referring to the mental processes involved in gaining knowledge and comprehension.

Cognition includes ^{all of the} conscious and unconscious processes involved in thinking, perceiving and reasoning.

Example - Attention, learning, memory, perception, thought.

Cognitive development is the processes in which cognition (thinking) develops.

It is the orderly development of mental and intellectual processes like logical reasoning, making sense of new ideas, solving problems ~~and the~~ and this takes place over a period of time.

Even the concept formation is a part of cognition.

Piaget's 4 stages of development of cognitive

- Jean Piaget's theory of cognitive development suggests that children go through 4 different stages of learning.
- This theory focuses not only on understanding how children acquire knowledge, but also on understanding the nature of intelligence.
- He believed that children of different ages made different mistakes because of the "quality" rather than the "quantity" of their intelligence.
- This theory states that as the person progresses to higher stages his/her thinking becomes more refined and evolved. The first 3 stages span from birth to 11 years of span and fourth stage is the highest stage of cognitive development and is primarily located during pre-adolescent till adulthood.

Also cognitive development does not happen from one stage to another within each stage there is an order of development

— This theory of Piaget was inspired by his observations on his own nephew and daughters

— So the piaget proposed that ^{intelligence} cognitive ~~done~~ grows and develops through a series of stages.

The stages are as follows.

1) Sensorimotor stage (Birth to 2 yrs)
During the earliest stage of cognitive development, infants & toddlers acquire knowledge through sensory experiences and manipulating objects.
This whole stage occurs through reflexes, senses and motor responses

— children go through dramatic growth and learning as they interact with environment
— they make new discoveries about how the world works
— They also learn a great deal about language from the people with whom they interact

- learn that things ~~are~~ exist even if they can not be seen.
- Realize that their action can cause thing to ~~to~~ happen in the world around them.

2) Preoperational Stage. (2-7 years)

- In ~~this~~ ^{the previous} stage foundation of language was ~~laid~~, but the emergence start in this stage. It is the major hallmark of this stage.

- Begin to learn symbolically and learn to use words and pictures to represent things.
- Get better in thinking and language.
- Still struggle in taking of point of view of others.
- Example ~~clay~~ given 2 pieces of clay one is a ball and another is flat. So flat one look larger so he or she will take that one even if both the same size. Idea of ~~con~~ conservation.
- Egocentric

3) Concrete operational stage

- They begin to adapt logic in situations
- egocentrism of the previous stage starts to disappear
- become better in understanding others point of view
- Starts to understand that liquid in small wide cup is equal to tall skinny cup.
- "These thoughts are unique and not everyone else necessarily share their thoughts feelings & opinions"
Starts to understand this.

4) Formal operational stage.

Involves increase in logic ability or reasoning

- Begin to see different potential solutions for a problem and think more scientifically about the world around them
- think about ethics, ^{morals and} social & political issues
- ability to plan about future and reason the hypothetical situations
- begin to think abstractly