

## Piaget's Theory of Learning

- Explains how individuals perceive, think, understand and learn
- Learning involves discovery
- Manipulating objects promotes learning
- Interactions with people, places, and things lead to development of intellect and knowledge
- Stages of Intellectual Development
  - Sensorimotor
  - Preoperational
  - Concrete Operations

Sensorimotor Stage: the stage during which children learn through the sense and motor activities

- Uses innate sensorimotor systems of sucking, grasping, and gross-body activities to build schemes
- Begin to develop object permanency (the idea that objects can exist without being seen, heard, or touched)
- “Think” with their senses and their innate reflexive actions
- “Solve” problems by playing with toys and using everyday “tools” such as a spoon to learn to feed themselves

Preoperational Stage: the stage in which young children are capable of mental representation

- Depend on concrete representations; “think” with concrete materials
  - Moving to using symbols to represent objects and events—symbols such as language, pictures, etc.
- Use the world of here and now as a frame of reference
- Enjoy accelerated language development; internalize events
- Are egocentric in thought and action
- Think everything has a reason or purpose
- Are perceptually bound
- Make judgments based primarily on how things look

Reference: *Early Childhood Education Today*: 10<sup>th</sup> Edition by George S. Morrison