

Psych 353: Learning and the Young Child

Schwartz

Unit Objectives

Piaget's Theory of Cognitive Development

Students should be able to:

1. Identify and briefly explain the major **assumptions** underlying Piaget's theory of cognitive development.
2. Highlight, in number one above, an explanation of the logical importance of the assumption of **balance, independence** and **social transmission**, and the role each plays in the development of cognition.
3. Explain what is, and provide examples of, the ***structure*** of cognition.
4. Explain what is, and provide examples of, the ***function*** of cognition.
5. Differentiate between, and provide examples in children of, assimilation, accommodation, and disequilibrium.
6. Explain what is meant by a cognitive representation.
7. Tell what is meant by, and identify in an example, the following concepts:
 1. object permanence
 2. egocentricity
 3. decentration (centration)
 4. irreversibility (reversibility)
 5. transductive reasoning
 6. symbolic function
8. Briefly explain whether cognitive development is a continuous or discontinuous process that is tied to specific ages.
9. Briefly describe the cognitive accomplishments characterized by the four periods of cognitive development:

| | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| sensorimotor | preoperational |
| concrete operational | formal operational |
10. You should be able to identify the stages of cognitive development given examples of children's behavior.