

Cognitive Development and Piaget's Stages of Intellectual Growth

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Abstract: *Cognitive development is a fundamental aspect of human growth that explains how individuals acquire, process, and utilize knowledge over time. Among the most influential theories in this field is the stage theory proposed by Jean Piaget. Piaget's theory of intellectual growth emphasizes that children progress through a series of qualitatively distinct stages: sensorimotor, preoperational, concrete operational, and formal operational. Each stage reflects changes in thinking patterns, reasoning abilities, and interaction with the environment. This paper examines Piaget's conceptualization of cognitive development, the characteristics of each stage, and the educational implications of his theory. It also highlights key contributions and criticisms of Piaget's framework within contemporary psychology.*

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