

Piaget's Theory Of Intellectual Development

Or

Do you know what to expect from each age-group?

Age	Development Stage	Thinking
Birth – 2 yrs	Sensori- Motor	Thought is about the co-ordination of actions. The baby gradually learns to differentiate self from everything else. At 4 months "out of sight, out of mind". By 8 months will look for objects that have been removed from them. Baby comes to realise that objects have permanence.
2 - 7 yrs	Intuitive, Pre - operational	Language helps the child to express and explore experience. Thoughts limited to their own perspective. Fragmentary, partial, inconsistent judgements. Tied to one aspect of a problem. When children play together, often parallel monologues.
7-11,12 yrs	Concrete operations	The first truly logical operations of thought. Can make generalisations, operations are reversible, sees that things can be co-ordinated into systems. Constructs a reality that is increasingly orderly, predictable but based on the concrete present, visible, and accessible.
12 yrs +	Formal operations	The development of formal, abstract thought operations. No longer bound by the concrete here and now, the adolescent capable of hypotheses and deducing possible consequences. Thought gets wings! Can transcend their experience. Have the ability to use the scientific methods. Can see things from alternate points of view.

James Fowler's Stages Of Faith Development



Undifferentiated Faith

Our first pre-images of God come through confirming smiles and the love shown to us in the nursery.

The seeds of trust, hope and love are sown and will lie at the base of all future religious faith.



Stage 1 : Intuitive - Projective Faith

Faith is fantasy filled. Everything and anything is possible. Child can be powerfully and permanently influenced by examples, actions, and authority of adults.

The powerful symbols of Christianity will contribute deep and lasting images. Thinking is immediate, unreasoned.



Stage 2 : Mythic - Literal Faith

The world is becoming more predictable, more ordered and structured. The child is beginning to see a pattern of cause and effect. A great sense of fairness and justice, but not yet self-examining or reflecting.

This is the great era of story telling. "Is this true?" they want to know.



Stage 3 : Synthetic - Conventional Faith

This stage develops in adolescence, and for many remains the permanent way of belief. It is conformist; highly tuned to the expectations and judgements of significant others. Not yet sure enough to hold an independent faith. Beliefs and values are deeply felt, even though we may not be sure why we hold them.



Stage 4 : Individuative - Reflective Faith

A desire now to choose and own a faith for oneself. Everything is up for examination. This can be a long and sometimes traumatic transition period. We take responsibility for our own faith, own world-view, and our own life style, often as part of a new start (such as leaving home). Both an intellectual and emotional stage.



Stage 5 : Conjunctive Faith

The unity and coherence of Stage 4 begins to fade as we come to respect the truth in the viewpoints of others.

Able to show real empathy with others of a different faith tradition; more balanced, complex and inclusive in practising faith. Symbol, myth and story speak to us again.



Stage 6 : Universalizing Faith

Sometimes called "selfless faith". Self has been abandoned in favour of a grounding in God. A vision of a sense of the unity of all things. One's circle of love has widened to include the whole of humanity. A Stage 6 person is in the world but not of the world.

John Westerhoff 's theory: **Styles Of Faith**

