Cognitive Development (Piaget)

Sensorimotor Stage

Birth - 18 mos

- Intellect develops
- Infant gains knowledge through exploration of the environment using senses
- Use of reflexes (primitive/survival reflexes suckling, grasp
- Repetition and discovers own body parts as center of interest
- Shift of attention to objects and the environment (ie: search for toy that has fallen)
- Coordination of schemes (ie: searches for hidden object)
- Interest in experimentation and discovery
- Stage ends with achievement of object permanence - infant senses self as separate from others and retains mental image of absent object or person

12 - 24 months

- Trial and error experimentation
- Exploration
- Mental combinations- devise new means for accomplishing tasks

Preoperational Thought (2-7 years)

Preconceptual Phase (2-4 yrs)

- Forms concepts that are not as complete or logical as adults
- Can make simple classifications
- Associates one event with a simultaneous one
- Egocentric thinking

Intuitive Phase (4-7 years)

- Able to classify, quantify and relate objects
- Unable to see viewpoint of others
- Aware that something is right but doesn't know why (intuitive thought process)
- Uses many words appropriately but lacks real knowledge of their meanings

Concrete Operations (7-11 years)

- Develops inductive reasoning, logical operations and reversible concrete thought
- Can see another's persons view
- Focus on immediate physical reality, difficulty seeing the future of hypothetical matters
- Mental classifying and ordering of activity
- Development of principle of conservation (ie. Volume weight, mass, and numbers)
- Activities at this age include: baseball cards, dolls and marbles, ordering items by shape/weight, considering options with problem solving
Formal Operations (11-15 years)

- Child develops abstract reasoning
- Can think beyond the present and forms theories about everything
- Systematic approach to problem solving
- Can order triads of relationships
- Capacity for true formal thought