

# PIAGET: COGNITIVE DEVELOPMENT

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Piaget proposed that cognition develops through distinct stages from birth through the end of adolescence. This infographic details the four developmental stages, as well as the key features contained within each.

## DEVELOPMENT TIMELINE



### BIRTH - 2 YEARS

#### SENSORIMOTOR STAGE

- Infants “think” by means of senses and motor actions.
- Repeated manipulation of objects reinforce stable concepts.
- Children learn that objects exist even when they’re not present. (Object permanence)

### 2 - 7 YEARS

#### PREOPERATIONAL STAGE

- Focus on only one aspect of situation at one time.
- Thoughts and communication are egocentric.
- At the beginning of this stage, children are engaged in parallel play, later children engage in pretend play.
- Children believe that inanimate objects (like teddy bear) have human feelings and interiors.



- Children believe that certain aspects of the environment are manufactured by people (like clouds in the sky).



### 7 - 11 YEARS

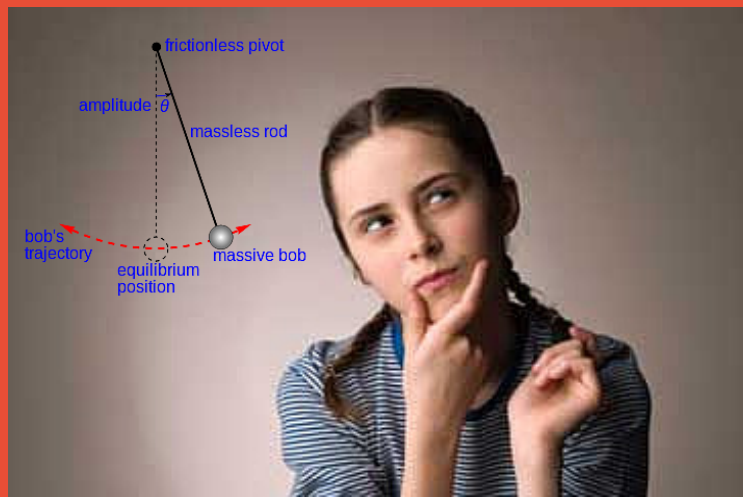
#### CONCRETE OPERATIONAL STAGE

- Develop the ability to think about the steps of a process in any order (Reversibility).
- Develop ability to decenter, or focus on more than one feature of a problem at a time.
- Conservation, the belief that an amount or quantity stays the same even if it changes apparent size or shape

# 11 YEARS AND BEYOND

## FORMAL OPERATIONAL STAGE

- Can manipulate ideas abstractly without need for concrete forms.
- Deductive reasoning - thought is more flexible, rational, systematic.
- Hypothetic-deductive reasoning: "what if" situations that are not always rooted in reality.
- Child can approach a problem from several points of view
- Development of inner value system - sense of moral judgement



## METACOGNITION BEGINS!

IN THIS PANEL YOU CAN'T EVEN SEE MY *LEGS*, YET YOU *ASSUME* THAT THEY'RE *THERE*.



EVEN THOUGH THEY'RE *NOT!*

