

## **Quadrant II – Transcript and Related Materials**

**Programme: Bachelor of Arts ( Third Year)**

**Subject: Psychology**

**Course Code: PSD 105**

**Course Title: Development Psychology**

**Unit: 03**

**Module Name: Theories of cognitive development: Piaget**

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### **Notes**

Piaget maintained that cognitive development occurs in four age related periods or stages:

- Sensorimotor stage
- Preoperational stage
- Concrete operational stage
- Formal operational stage

#### **THE SENSORIMOTOR STAGE**

The sensorimotor stage lasts from birth to about 2 years of age. In this stage, infants construct an understanding of the world by coordinating sensory experiences (such as seeing and hearing) with physical, motoric actions—hence the term “sensorimotor.”

Substages Piaget divided the sensorimotor stage into six substages:

- (1) Simple reflexes;
- (2) First habits and primary circular reactions;
- (3) Secondary circular reactions;
- (4) Coordination of secondary circular reactions;

(5) Tertiary circular reactions, novelty, and curiosity; and

(6) Internalization of schemes

### Preoperational stage

The preoperational stage which lasts from approximately 2 to 7 years of age, is the second Piagetian stage. In this stage, children begin to represent the world with words, images, and drawings.

They form stable concepts and begin to reason. At the same time, the young child's cognitive world is dominated by egocentrism and magical beliefs.

The label preoperational emphasizes that the child does not yet perform operations, which are reversible mental actions; they allow children to do mentally what before they could do only physically.

It can be divided into two substages: the symbolic function substage and the intuitive thought substage.

### Concrete operational stage

Piaget proposed that the concrete operational stage lasts from approximately 7 to 11 years of age. In this stage, children can perform concrete operations, and they can reason logically as long as reasoning can be applied to specific or concrete examples.

### The formal operational stage

Around age 11, according to Piaget, the fourth and final stage of cognitive development, the formal operational stage, begins. Formal operational thought is more abstract than concrete operational thought.

Adolescents are no longer limited to actual, concrete experiences as anchors for thought. They can conjure up make-believe situations, abstract propositions, and events that are purely hypothetical, and can try to reason logically about them. The abstract quality of thinking during the formal operational stage is evident in the adolescent's verbal problem-solving ability.