

# IMPORTANT LEARNING THEORIES



## 1. JEAN PIAGET

(Cognitive Development Theory)



Jean Piaget believed that children **actively construct knowledge** as they interact with their environment.



### FOUR STAGES OF COGNITIVE DEVELOPMENT

1		<b>SENSORIMOTOR STAGE</b> (0–2 years)	Learning through senses and actions.
2		<b>PREOPERATIONAL STAGE</b> (2–7 years)	Symbolic thinking develops; egocentric view of the world.
3		<b>CONCRETE OPERATIONAL STAGE</b> (7–11 years)	Logical thinking about concrete objects and events.
4		<b>FORMAL OPERATIONAL STAGE</b> (11 years and above)	Abstract thinking and logical reasoning about hypothetical situations.

### KEY CONCEPTS



**Schema** – Mental framework for understanding.



**Assimilation** – Fitting new information into existing schemas.



**Accommodation** – Modifying schemas to include new information.



**Egocentrism** – Inability to see things from others' perspective (common in children).



## 2. LEV VYGOTSKY

(Sociocultural Development Theory)



Lev Vygotsky emphasized that **social interaction and culture** play a vital role in cognitive development.



### KEY CONCEPTS

	<b>Zone of Proximal Development (ZPD)</b>	The gap between what a child can do alone and what they can do with help.
	<b>Scaffolding</b>	Temporary support provided by adults or peers to help children learn and then gradually removed.
	<b>More Knowledgeable Other (MKO)</b>	A person who has more knowledge or experience and guides the child.
	<b>Language and Thought</b>	Language plays a central role in shaping thought and cognitive development.



**Summary:** Piaget focuses on how children think and develop through stages. Vygotsky focuses on how social interaction and culture support learning.