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PIAGET'S STAGES OF COGNITIVE DEVELOPMENT

Sensorimotor (0-18 months)- six substages

- 1) **reflexes** (0-1 month) that gradually become more efficient: sucking, grasping, kicking.
- 2) **primary circular reactions** (1-4 months) repetition for own sake without any intention.
- 3) **secondary circular reactions** (4-6 months) repeated actions to produce effects that seem interesting.
- 4) **coordination of secondary reactions** (7-10 months) mastery of responses that child uses to create specific desired effects.
- 5) **tertiary circular reactions** (11-18 months) active trial and error experimentation.
- 6) **internal mental inventions** (18 months) invention of new means of affecting self and world through internal mental combinations.

Preoperational (18 months-age 7)

Characterized by the development and use of language; understanding the meanings of objects; and events are manipulated; as well as overt actions. Treat objects as **symbolic** of other things. **Not** necessarily committed to **fine articulated rules and concepts**.

Concrete Operations (age 7-12)

Now can make a **mental representation** of an entire sequence of events; **Conservation** of volume; **Relational terms** distinguishable (which is darker? btwn two light objects); **Class inclusion** understood (more yellow or more candles); Still present centered.

Formal Operations (age 12 and up)

Can **consider all alternatives** to solve problems; Is **deductive**; Can do **hypothetical thinking**; can use **abstract rules to solve** a whole class of problems; **rational and systematic**; **self-conscious and highly reflective**; is more **future oriented** and **remote**.