



# Five Important Ideas about Thinking from Piaget

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1. Learning how to think and develop mental abilities is an innate process.
2. Children and adults **do not** think in the same way. Children's thinking is concrete and reflects where they are in their on-going growth and development.
3. Thinking begins with a child's actual hands-on experiences with objects and the freedom to move their bodies. Children need to touch, smell, taste, hear, and see objects in order to be able to think. They also need to be able to use their bodies.
4. Thinking becomes more complex as children have more experiences and their bodies mature. There are periods of cognitive development that children go through and there are things that children do and say that tell us where they are in developing their ability to think.
5. Language plays a major role in how children learn to think. Spoken language is the bridge between concrete experiences and mental images and symbols. Children need plenty of opportunities to "think out loud" in order to move concrete physical experiences into a mental images and even later into abstract thought.