

Project 3

Cognitive Development of Children

● Concept

Jean Piaget identified four stages of cognitive development that occur in all humans. Each stage builds on the earlier stage(s) and affects the way in which children interact with the world around them.

● Materials Needed

- sheets of paper
- crayons, markers, or colored pencils

● Assembly

- no assembly required

● Procedure

1. Identify and obtain parental permission for four children to participate in this project. The participants should include a preschooler (ages 4 or 5) and students in grades 1, 4, and 8.
2. Give the preschooler a sheet of paper and crayons or washable markers. Ask him or her to draw a picture of a boy and a girl. Be sure to tell the preschooler that you need to keep the drawing for your project. (Note: Some preschoolers will be very reluctant to leave the paper with you. If necessary allow them to draw another picture to take home.)
3. Give the first grader a sheet of paper and crayons, markers, or colored pencils. Ask him or her to draw a picture of a man and a woman.
4. Repeat Step 3 with the fourth and eighth graders.
5. Analyze the drawings in terms of cognitive development.
6. Create a table with each picture at the top, the age of the child, and your analysis of the child's cognitive development. Identify the child's level of cognitive development and explain how you reached your conclusions.

● Things to Observe

Directions: Answer the following questions in the space provided.

- What features are missing or misproportioned in the preschooler's picture?

- Between which ages do you see the greatest difference in level of detail?

- How do the pictures distinguish the gender of the figures?
