

DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY

Developmental Psychology

- ▶ the scientific study of systematic psychological changes that occur in human beings over the course of the life span



Piaget's stages of cognitive development

1. sensorimotor

2. pre-operational

3. concrete operational

4. formal operational

sensorimotor (age 0-2)

- ❖ Learns about boundaries between self and external objects.
- ❖ Learns about senses and sensory input.
- ❖ Recognizes self as agent of action and begins to act intentionally using motor skills.

pre-operational (age 2-7)

- ❖ Learns to use language and images to represent external objects.
- ❖ Develops relatively simple schemas.

concrete operational (age 7-11)

- ❖ Can think logically about objects and events. Develops rules for how the physical world works.
- ❖ Schemas get more sophisticated. Can arrange objects by a number of features.

formal operational (age 11+)

- ❖ Can think abstractly about the world, Can draw more sophisticated inferences.
- ❖ Can formulate and test hypothesis using more abstract concepts.
- ❖ Understands symbolism, innuendo, and metaphorical references.

strange situation paradigm

mother and child

mother and child and stranger

child and stranger

mother and child and stranger

child

child and stranger

mother and child and stranger

Hazan & Shaver (1987)

Which of the following best describes your feelings?

SECURE (56%): I find it relatively easy to get close to others and am comfortable having them depend on me. I don't often worry about being abandoned or someone getting too close to me.

ANXIOUS/AMBIVALENT (19%): I find that others are reluctant to get as close as I would like. I often worry that my partner doesn't really love me or won't want to stay with me. I want to merge completely with another person, and this desire sometimes scares people away.

AVOIDANT (25%): I am somewhat uncomfortable being close to others. I find it difficult to trust them completely, difficult to allow myself to depend on them. I am nervous when anyone gets too close, and often, love partners want me to be more intimate than I feel comfortable being.

secure

❖ feel good about themselves

❖ trust others

❖ benevolent view of the world

anxious / ambivalent

- ❖ Doubt themselves and feel misunderstood
- ❖ High fear of abandonment
- ❖ Clingy → scares people away
- ❖ Loneliest of all 3 styles

avoidant

- ❖ hostile, defensive & aloof
- ❖ high fear of intimacy
- ❖ Mistrust other people
- ❖ Malevolent view of others

SECURE ↔ SECURE

SECURE ↔ ANXIOUS/AMBIVALENT

SECURE ↔ AVOIDANT

ANXIOUS/AMBIVALENT ↔ AVOIDANT

ANXIOUS/AMBIVALENT ↔ ANXIOUS/AMBIVALENT

AVOIDANT ↔ AVOIDANT

Lawrence Kohlberg

Heinz dilemma

- ❖ Heinz has a wife who is dying from a rare disease.
- ❖ A druggist has discovered a possible cure but it is very expensive (the materials cost \$400 but the druggist sells it for \$4000).
- ❖ Heinz goes to everyone he knows and collects \$2000 but he can't convince the druggist to sell it any cheaper.

What should Heinz do???



preconventional

Stage 1: Individual obeys rules in order to avoid punishment

Stage 2: Individual conforms to society's rules in order to receive rewards

conventional

Stage 3: Individual behaves morally in order to gain approval from other people

Stage 4: Conformity to authority to avoid censure and guilt

postconventional

Stage 5: Individual is concerned with individual rights and democratically decided laws.

Stage 6: Individual is entirely guided by his or her own conscience.