

BRUNER'S COGNITIVE THEORY CONT.

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Cognitive Development

Like Piaget, Bruner believed in stages of instruction based on development.

- Enactive (birth to age 3)
- Iconic (age 3 to 8)
- Symbolic (from age 8)

Each mode is dominant at different phases of development but all are present and accessible always.

Enactive

The first stage he termed "Enactive", when a person learns about the world through actions on physical objects and the outcomes of these actions.



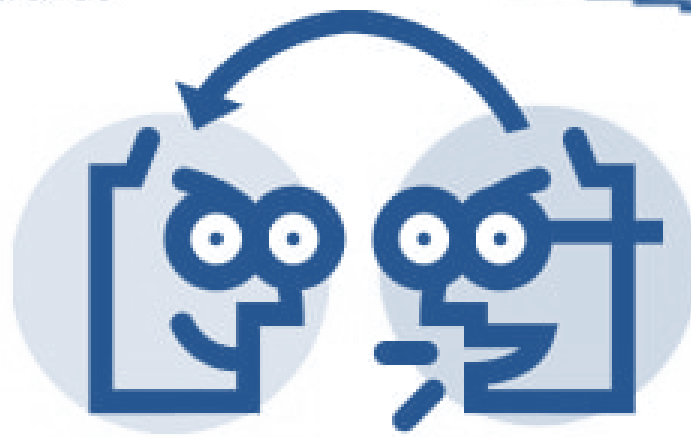
Iconic

The second stage was called "Iconic" where learning can be obtained through using models and pictures.



Symbolic

- "Symbolic" in which the learner develops the capacity to think in abstract terms.
- Based on this three-stage notion, Bruner recommended using a combination of concrete, pictorial then symbolic activities will lead to more effective learning.



Classroom Applications

- Provide study materials, activities and tools.
- Examples of all three to help children learn about dinosaurs
 - Construct a model of a dinosaur (enactive)
 - Watch a film about dinosaurs (iconic)
 - Consult reference texts and discuss findings (symbolic)