

Developmental Theories




The Role they Play

- ✗ explanations about why people act and behave the way they do and how they change over time
- ✗ help us understand the people around us better
- ✗ gives us a broader picture of how people develop and change over time



Types of theories



Psychoanalytic Theories: Based on the belief that development is unconscious

Theories analyze the symbolic meaning behind behaviors

Cognitive Theories: Ideas about how people process information, think, and learn

Used to explain the differences between how people think over time

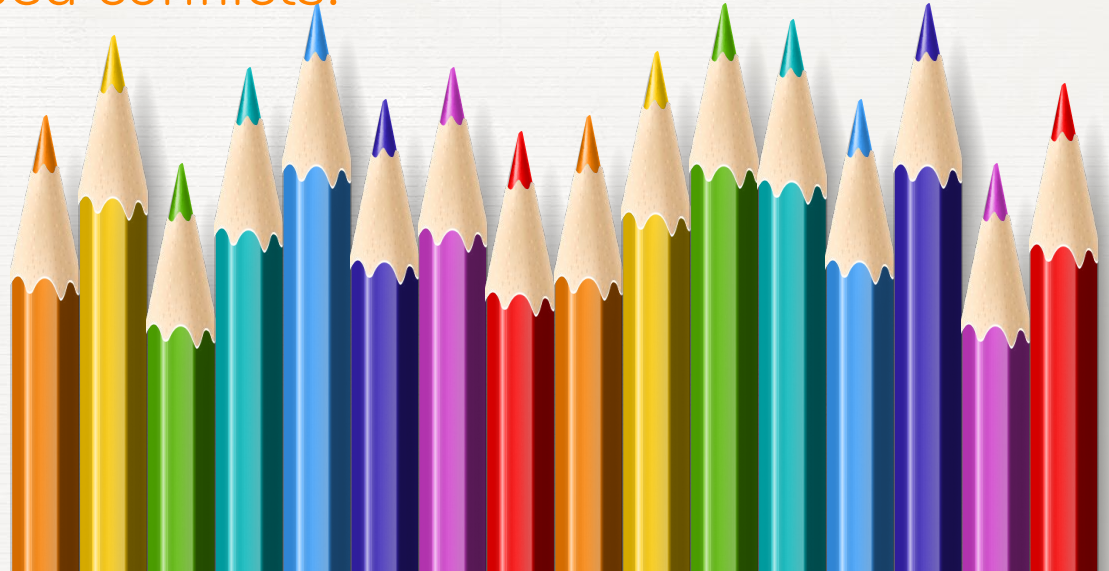
Behaviorism Theories: Based on the belief that people's behavior is determined by forces in the environment that are beyond their control

0. Freud

events in our childhood have a great influence on our adult lives, shaping our personality

physical symptoms are often the surface manifestations of deeply repressed conflicts.

Ultimately unsound
and discredited



1. Erik Erikson

Humans work through stages, at each stage, they face a 'crisis'
If the conflict is not resolved, their development is impacted and
stunted until successfully resolved

These stages are how we develop virtues



2. Jean Piaget



Founder of Cognitive Development

regarded cognitive development as a process which occurs due to biological maturation and interaction with the environment

Not analyzing how **much** a child knows (like how high they can count) but how they **understand** concepts (like what numbers are and their meaning)

Showed that children don't just lack knowledge, but that their fundamental thinking is different than adults



3. Howard Gardner

Developed the idea of Multiple Intelligences account for a broader range of human potential in children and adults, rather than smart only including 'book smart'

Educators should present information in many different formats to reach all kinds of learners



4. Abraham Maslow

Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs

Humans can only focus on 'upper' tasks and goals if their 'lower' needs are met

(not an all-or-nothing situation)

When a need has been satisfied, it will go away, and our activities become directed towards meeting the next set of needs that we have yet to satisfy



5. Lev Vygotsky

Strong believer in Nurture and its role in development

Development changes between cultures

Children have a Zone of Proximal Development of what they are capable of learning if given the right tools and guidance

Developed the idea of scaffolding



6. Maria Montessori



Children are born with specific, unique potentials that can be 'unlocked' with proper education

Curiosity driven learning

Focused mostly on Infant to Six years old