

Piaget's Stages

Psychology

Four stages of cognitive development, and what each one cannot yet do.

Ages are approximate and the boundaries are not sharp.

Stage	Age	Key limitation
Sensorimotor	0–2	No object permanence at first
Preoperational	2–7	Egocentrism; no conservation
Concrete operational	7–11	Cannot reason abstractly
Formal operational	11+	—

Later research shows Piaget underestimated infants: object permanence appears earlier with less demanding tasks.