Jean Piaget

* Suggested that the way children think is fundamentally different from the way adults think.
* Piaget suggested that children sort the knowledge they acquire through their experiences and interactions into groupings known as schemas.
  + When new information is acquired, it can either be assimilated into existing schemas or accommodated through revising an existing schema or creating an entirely new category of information.
* Created the 4 stages of cognitive development.
  + **Sensorimotor stage**: The first stage of development lasts from birth to approximately age 2. At this point in development, children know the world primarily through their senses and movements.
  + **Preoperational stage**: The second stage of development lasts from the ages of 2 to 7 and is characterized by the development of language and the emergence of symbolic play.
  + **Concrete operational stage**: The third stage of cognitive development lasts from the age of 7 to approximately age 11. At this point, logical thought emerges, but children still struggle with abstract and theoretical thinking.
  + **Formal operational stage**: In the fourth and final stage of cognitive development, lasting from age 12 and into adulthood, children become much more adept at abstract thought and deductive reasoning.

Overall thought: Children learn differently than adults and should have an education catered to the specific way children gather new information.

Three rules

1. Discovery learning: Children should be given the freedom to explore and discover new information on their own.
2. Problem-solving: Piaget believed that children should be taught by solving problems; in addition, teachers should pay attention to*how* a child arrives at a correct answer.
3. Stage-based teaching: Since each child falls into a different stage of cognitive development (and children progress through the stages in their own time), important that the learning environment reflects which stage a child is in.