

# Scheme of Learning: Development

## Topic Sequence:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Early brain development	Piaget's theory of schemas	Piaget's stage theory of cognitive development	Hughes' Policeman doll experiment	McGarrigle and Donaldson's naughty teddy study	Dweck's mindset theory	Praise and self-efficacy	Willingham's learning theory

## Topic Overview:

In the topic of development, we focus on the development and education of the child and how different techniques can be used to improve the outcomes of learners. Again nature vs. nurture plays an important role and shows that both are important factors in both early brain development and the education of the child. The stages of child development are outlined and challenged by different studies so that students have a good understanding of the main features of development. Later we focus on how teaching techniques can improve mindset and self-efficacy to improve understanding.

## Lesson Sequence:

We begin by focusing on the role of 4 important parts of the brain, the cortex, thalamus, cerebellum and brain stem. We discuss when they develop in the womb and their function. This leads us onto the ideas of nature and nurture and how nurture can still affect the fetus in the womb.

The first theory we come across is Piaget's theory of developing schemas. These mental frameworks are assembled to help us to explain the world around us and can represent everything from concrete objects such as cars and houses, to abstract concepts such as love and morals. We then look at how schemas are adjusted throughout life through assimilation and accommodation.

Next, we further analyse Piaget's ideas by studying his Stage Theory of Cognitive Development. To do this we introduce his experiments and watch examples of children from each stage. The focus here is on the defining features of each stage and then, eventually, on the criticisms of Piaget's work, addressed in two studies; McGarrigle and Donaldson's Naughty Teddy study and Hughes Policeman Doll experiment. First, we look at Hughes experiment, focusing on the idea of egocentrism, then we move to The Naughty Teddy study, which focuses on conservation.

These studies form the basis of major criticisms of Piaget's work, whilst it's application in education is a major strength. Students look at the major changes in classrooms initiated in part by Piaget's work. Students also study the idea of readiness and tailoring learning to specific stages. We continue with the idea of learning by looking at a further 2 theories. First Dweck's mindset theory focuses on changing the mindset of students to improve their outcomes whilst Willingham's learning theory stresses an evidence-based approach to education with a particular focus the lack of evidence for learning styles.

## Sequence of Lessons:

1	Intro lesson – Knowledge map and study guide
2	The brain
3	Early brain development
4	Nature vs. nurture
5	Piaget's theory of schema's
6	Piaget's stage theory of cognitive development
7	Application in education
8	Hughes' policeman doll experiment
9	McGarrigle and Donaldson's naughty teddy study
10	Evaluating McGarrigle and Donaldson's naughty teddy study
11	Dweck's mindset theory of learning
12	Self efficacy
13	Effects of praise
14	Learning styles
15	Willingham's learning theory

## Topic Resources:

Knowledge Map:	Development	Any other Resources:	Study guide
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## Assessment:

<b>Knowledge:</b>	Mid topic 20Marks End of topic 20Marks Assessment - 8marks
<b>Application of Knowledge:</b>	Longer written apply questions as part of end of topic assessment - 25marks

## Supportive Reading:

<b>Piaget's theories</b>	Piaget's theory states that mental frameworks are created and then adapted throughout our lifetimes. The development of the child occurs in stages which each include milestones of behaviour.
<b>Hughes' policeman doll experiment</b>	A study that challenges Piaget's established ideas about the stages of development by looking to prove that young children are not always egocentric.
<b>McGarrigle and Donaldson's naughty teddy study</b>	A study that challenges Piaget's established ideas about the stages of development by looking to prove that young children are sometimes able to conserve.
<b>Dweck's mindset theory and Willingham's learning theory</b>	Dweck's mindset focus on the idea that student's attitude to failure can affect their progress and that types of praise determine said attitudes. Willingham's theory looks at how research should be used to improve teaching and that specifically children should not learn in their preferred learning styles.