



CHILD DEVELOPMENT THEORISTS AND LEARNING THEORIES

Successful Solutions Professional Development LLC

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ECE Virtual Classroom
Online Courses for Early Childhood Educators



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Child Development Theorists and Learning Theories

3 clock hours early childhood education

Course Description

Early childhood theorists are the people who develop ideas and beliefs about how children grow and learn. Theorists use a variety of methods in developing their ideas including observations of children. Early childhood theories may include ideas about education, social development, health, physical development, and language development. Early childhood caregivers and teachers look to the various theories to provide the foundations for working with young children. As an early childhood education professional, you will use the theories in your work with children. After you have gained experience and learned more about early education, you will use the theories to form your own philosophy of early childhood education.

Washington STARS credit: Child Growth & Development (3 hours)

CDA Content Area: Child Growth, Development, and Learning (3 hours)

CDA Settings

- Infant/Toddler
- Preschool
- Family Child Care (Mixed-Age)

Learning Outcomes

- ✓ Explain the core idea of each of the theorists as it pertains to early childhood education
- ✓ Discuss how knowledge of different theories influence teaching practices
- ✓ State activities that support different theorists
- ✓ Compare your program to other programs that adhere to various theories of child development
- ✓ Discuss which child development theory reflects your own personal beliefs
- ✓ Identify fundamental characteristics of child development theories

Course Content

1. Course Agenda
2. Pre-Assessment (1/7)
3. Theorists: Erikson (1902-1994)
4. Stages of Social-Emotional
5. Check for Understanding: Erikson (2/7)
6. Theorists: Jean Piaget (1896 -1980)
7. Cognitive Development Stages
8. Piaget's Stages of Development



9. Discussion: Jean Piaget (3/7)
10. Theorists: Maria Montessori (1870-1952)
11. The Montessori Classroom Environment
12. Check for Understanding: Maria Montessori (4/7)
13. Theorists: Reggio Emilia Approach
14. Reggio Emilia Early Childhood Schools
15. Theorists: Lev Vygotsky (1896-1934)
16. Kohlberg's Stages of Moral Development
17. Discussion: Reflect - Theorists (5/7)
18. Developmentally Appropriate Practice (DAP)
19. Developmentally Appropriate Practice (6/7)
20. End of Course Assessment (7/7)
21. End of Course Evaluation

Sources

- Atherton J S (2011) Learning and Teaching; Piaget's developmental theory [On-line: UK] retrieved 25 July 2012 from <http://www.learningandteaching.info/learning/piaget.htm>
- Trawick-Smith, J. (2008). Early childhood development: A multicultural perspective (Fifth ed.). New York, New York: Pearson.
- Gonzales-Mena and Eyler (2009). Infant, toddler and caregivers: A curriculum of respectful, responsive, relationships based care and education. (8th ed.). McGraw-Hill.
- Child Development and DAP, NAEYC. Retrieved from <http://www.naeyc.org/positionstatements/dap>
- Piaget Stages of Cognitive Development, WebMd. Retrieved from <https://www.webmd.com/children/piaget-stages-of-development#1>
- Erikson's First 4 Stages of Development, OPHIA Learning, LLC. Retrieved from <https://www.sophia.org/tutorials/eriksons-first-4-stages-of-development>
- McLeod, S. A. (2018). Sensorimotor stage. Retrieved from <https://www.simplypsychology.org/sensorimotor.html>



Glossary of Terms

Cognitive Development

Cognitive development means how children think, explore and figure things out. It is the development of knowledge, skills, problem solving and dispositions.

Developmentally Appropriate Practice (DAP)

Developmentally appropriate practice (or DAP) is a way of teaching that meets young children where they are — which means that teachers must get to know them well — and enables them to reach goals that are both challenging and achievable.

Erikson's First 4 Stages of Social-Emotional Development

Stage One – Trust vs Mistrust (**Approximate Age:** Birth to 12-18 months)

Stage Two – Autonomy vs Shame and Doubt (**Approximate Age:** 18 months to 3 years)

Stage Three – Initiative vs Guilt (**Approximate Age:** 3 to 6 years)

Stage Four – Industry vs Inferiority (**Approximate Age:** 6 to 12 years)

Jean Piaget

First psychologist to make a systematic study of cognitive development. His contributions include a stage theory of child cognitive development, detailed observational studies of cognition in children, and a series of simple but ingenious tests to reveal different cognitive abilities.

Lawrence Kohlberg

Lawrence Kohlberg was heavily influenced by Piaget but wanted to understand how people developed morally. He studied children's responses to moral dilemmas and identified six progressive stages that people pass through. The primary concern of Kohlberg's stages is justice. In Kohlberg's theory, children operate largely under the first two stages, and a large number of adults never develop beyond level four.

Lev Vygotsky

A Russian psychologist who believed that children's learning is influenced by their society and culture. Vygotsky believed that other people play an important role in children's learning. Vygotsky's theory stated that children learn through their interactions with other people in their environment including parents, teachers and peers.

Maria Montessori

Dr. Maria Montessori (1870-1952) was an Italian physician and anthropologist who devoted her life to understanding how children develop socially, intellectually, physically, and spiritually.



Preoperational (2-6 years)

Preoperational stage is the second of the four stages in Piaget's theory of cognitive development (1954, 1964). The child uses symbols (words and pictures) to represent objects but does not reason logically. Child can pretend and is very egocentric.

Reggio Emilia

Reggio Emilia is a town in Northern Italy that established the preschool programs in 1963. The program is based on the principles of respect, responsibility, and community through exploration and discovery through a self-guided curriculum.

Scaffolding

Scaffolding is a process through which a teacher adds supports for students in order to enhance learning and aid in the mastery of tasks. The teacher does this by systematically building on students' experiences and knowledge as they are learning new skills. These supports are temporary and adjustable. As students master the assigned tasks, the supports are gradually removed.

Sensorimotor (0-2 years)

The sensorimotor stage is the first of the four stages in Piaget's theory of cognitive development (1954, 1964). It extends from birth to approximately 2 years and is a period of rapid cognitive growth. During this period, infants develop an understanding of the world through trial and error using their senses and actions (i.e., motor movements). Through the processes of assimilation and accommodation actions become progressively adapted to the world.

Optional Resources for Further Study

- Child development theorists by Children's Services of Australia, <https://sielearning.tafensw.edu.au/MCS/CHCFC301A/12048/chcfc301a/lo/12020/index.htm>
- Erik Erikson by Saul McLeod, <https://www.simplypsychology.org/Erik-Erikson.html>
- Trust vs. mistrust Attachment - Texas Child Care Quarterly, https://www.childcarequarterly.com/pdf/fall10_babies.pdf
- Jean Piaget's Theory of Cognitive Development, https://www.myececlass-growth.com/uploads/1/1/9/4/119403380/jean_piagets_theory_of.pdf
- Montessori Teacher and Parent Resources, Age of Montessori, <http://ageofmontessori.org/montessori-teacher-parent-resources/#reading-writing-math>
- What We Can All Learn from a Montessori Classroom, Jennifer Gonzalez, November 26, 2013, <https://www.cultofpedagogy.com/montessori/>
- Values and Principles of the Reggio Emilia Approach, Lella Gandini, <http://learningmaterialswork.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/ValuesAndPrinciples.pdf>



- The Reggio Emilia Approach to Early Years Education, Learning and Teaching Scotland, https://education.gov.scot/improvement/Documents/ELC/ELC35_ReggioEmilia/ELC35_ReggioAug06.pdf
- Reggio Emilia As Cultural Activity Theory in Practice, Rebecca S. New, <https://www.reggioalliance.org/downloads/new:theoryintopractice.pdf>
- Video: Kohlberg moral development | Individuals and Society | MCAT | Khan Academy, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Onkd8tChC2A&feature=youtu.be>
- Kohlberg's Theory of Moral Development, by Psychology Notes HQ · January 20, 2016, <https://www.psychologynoteshq.com/kohlbergstheory/>
- 10 Effective DAP Teaching Strategies, NAEYC, <https://www.naeyc.org/resources/topics/dap/10-effective-dap-teaching-strategies>
- DAP infographic!, https://www.naeyc.org/sites/default/files/globally-shared/downloads/PDFs/resources/topics/inforgraphic_DAP_2%202.pdf

Course Author

The learning outcomes for this course have been reviewed and updated by Aurora Tollestrup, BS Ed.

This topic has been collaboratively created, organized, and developed by our team of trainers, educators, administrators and specialists. We strive to maintain high quality online training methods while adhering to state standards for adult learning and meeting the needs of our students.

ECE Virtual Classroom Academic Coach

The Virtual Classroom Academic Coach's role is to support the ECE students through the training process. The Virtual Classroom Academic Coach reviews assignment per directions, monitors discussion threads, answers inquiries/emails, monitors student engagement, provides online student support, and regularly collaborates with team members on development. The Virtual Classroom Academic Coach serves as the facilitator and grader, while the Online Educators are the official state approved trainers.



Student Support

The best way to reach us is through live student support chat. Look for the Chat with Us bubble on the bottom left corner of the website.

Website: www.myececlass-growth.com

E-mail: info@myececlass.com

Phone: (360) 602-0960

Student Support Hours

Chat & Email Support

Monday - Friday	7 am – 6 pm
Saturday & Sunday	9 am – 6 pm
Holidays (Email Only)	10 am – 4 pm

Phone Support

Monday - Friday	7 am – 6 pm
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Required Assignments

Reading

The text on each page should be read. When you submit the worksheets, discussion boards, and click on the NEXT PAGE button, it will create a record of your progress moving through each page.

Videos

Watch the videos as you encounter them. If you have trouble with the videos playing, this may require that you update flash player on your computer. Optionally, some students find that if they are having difficulties playing the videos on their computer, they can view them on their phone. There is a link above the videos to view them on YouTube directly. You may wish to save the Youtube link for the video to refer to in the future, or in order to use another device for viewing.

Discussion

The discussion questions are a required part of the course. You may either post on the discussion board where you are contributing to the thread with other students. Alternately, you have the option of clicking on the link above the discussion board and submitting your response on a worksheet form. The ECE Virtual Classroom Coach will be tracking your submission of the discussion board assignments as part of meeting the learning outcomes for the course.



Worksheets

Check for Understanding worksheets are provided throughout each course. The worksheets allow opportunities to reflect on the course materials as you are progressing through the training. Watch your email in-box for trainer feedback. You may not receive feedback for every single assignment, depending on how quickly you are moving through the course. Instead, you may receive an email letting you know that your work was done well, with a certificate attached. If you need guidance, the trainer or the academic coach will be sending you emails with feedback with instructions for resubmission. Certificates will not be issued if worksheets are skipped, incomplete, or filled in with inappropriate responses. If you need assistance, we have student support available via Live Student Support Chat 7 days a week (Mon.-Fri. 7 am-8 pm and Sat.-Sun. 9am-6pm PST).

Quizzes

The end of course quizzes are primarily multiple choice and true or false questions, with occasional open-ended questions. 70% or better is required to pass the quiz. You can review the course materials and retake the quiz as many times as needed to pass. Automated emails are sent to you confirming that you have submitted the worksheets and quizzes and provide you with a link to resume at the next page.

Optional Course Items

The items below are offered in each course as options. Optional means that you have the choice to utilize them, or not.

Optional Resources for Further Study

We have included a wealth of resource links for you to explore and further your knowledge about each topic.

The resource links provided in our website are provided solely for your convenience and may assist you in locating other useful information on the Internet. When you click on these links you will leave our website and will be redirected to another website. These websites are not under the control of Successful Solutions Training in Child Development. Successful Solutions Training in Child Development is not responsible for the content of linked third party websites. We are not affiliated with these third parties nor do we endorse or guarantee their products, services, website content, etc. We make no representation or warranty regarding the accuracy of the information contained in the linked websites. We suggest that you always verify the information obtained from linked websites before acting upon this information.

Parking Lot

The Parking Lot is offered as an optional opportunity to interact with the trainer about a question that you may have about the course topic. If you do not have a question, it is not



necessary to fill out this form, it is not required. If you choose to submit a question to the trainer, she will respond to you by email. Be sure to watch your email in-box.

You can always leave a message for student support on our Live Chat on the bottom left corner of the website, any time of day or night. If we are not available, we will respond by email as soon as possible.

Certificates

When you submit the evaluation form, that prompts the academic coach to review all of your work. We will evaluate your work to assure that you have met the learning outcomes. Once that assessment is complete, you will receive your certificate by email. [Click Here](#) for a sample certificate. (This certificate is an example. The student certificate may vary slightly). Certificates are prepared 7 days a week between 7 am and 7 pm PST. In most cases, you should receive your certificate by email within a few hours after you submit the evaluation form, or first thing the next morning.

State Training Approval

This training may, or may not, meet annual training requirements in your state. Please provide us with your state, and any State registry ID number on the evaluation form, and if we are able to record your completed training with your state, we will. In some cases, for annual state credit, you will need to submit the certificate to the appropriate registry and they may or may not award annual credit. Providing a State Registry number to us does not guarantee that your state will approve the training for annual continuing education credit.

The following states have *pre-approved* our courses:

- **Washington State DEL MERIT Trainers:**

1. Kimberlee Turner, MS Ed #4062747253
2. Brittney Andrade, BS ECE #4029466074

- **Ohio Approved Trainers:**

1. Successful Solutions Professional Dev. - Entity OIN # 21084413
2. Kimberlee Turner, MS Ed OPIN #1123-5033
3. Brittney Andrade, BS ECE OPIN #1123-5512

1. Texas Approved Master Trainer: Kimberlee Turner, MS Ed #34928
2. Illinois Organization Approval Number B102312



3. North Carolina Organization Approval
4. Utah Organization Approval for Online Career Ladder Courses
5. Vermont Organization Approval

Our courses may be accepted many states that do not require pre-approval.

Technical Requirements

- Laptop or PC
- Most students are able to use mobile devices such as tablets to complete courses. However, each device is different, and an individual's skill level with the device may determine their success with using a mobile device.
- Recommended web browser: Google Chrome
 - Microsoft Edge, Safari and Firefox are other acceptable browsers.
 - Internet Explorer is no longer supported by Microsoft, and you may have issues if you use it to take training.
- Operating System
 - Make sure you're using a current operating system (for example, Windows 10).
 - Outdated operating systems may cause technical difficulties.
- Internet Speed
 - Slow internet speed may impact loading time.
- Videos may require Adobe Flash Player.

Adobe Reader is required to open PDF files. Download Adobe Reader can be downloaded free <https://acrobat.adobe.com/us/en/acrobat/pdf-reader.html>

