
LEARNING GUIDE

CLASSIFICATION



DAVIDSON *films*

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735 Tank Farm Road Suite 210 San Luis Obispo CA 93401
Tel: 805.594.0422 Fax: 805.594.0532
dfi@davidsonfilms.com www.davidsonfilms.com

CLASSIFICATION

PIAGET'S DEVELOPMENTAL THEORY:

This video deals with a range of children from age 4 to age 11. One of the ways Jean Piaget and his collaborator, Barbel Inhelder, studied the development of cognition was with classification tasks. The tasks are by Celia Stendler Lavatelli. Robert Karplus narrates.

Introduction

This video shows children dealing with three types of classification, each progressively more challenging. Each task is done by two children of different ages.

- MULTIPLE CLASSIFICATION
- CLASS INCLUSION
- HIERARCHICAL CLASSIFICATION

Multiple Classification

Children are given squares and circles of two sizes and of two different colors. They are asked to sort them two ways, thus having to deal with multiple classification.

The younger child loses track of what category she is sorting for, although she can do the sorting.

Class Inclusion

The children shown a cup of beads and told that they are all made of wood. The huge majority of the beads are red with only a few yellow beads. “Are there more wood beads or yellow beads?” The younger child cannot answer correctly.

The older child has “**reversibility**” and can separate the beads into two groups according to color and combine them to be all the beads which are all of wood. This reversibility is a hallmark for Piaget of the stage of **concrete operations**.

Hierarchical Classification

The children are asked to sort cards. Some cards have ducks, others have other birds and still others have mammals. They easily sort the cards into three piles. They are given labels: “ducks”, “birds”, “animals” and asked how the labels can be applied and if groups of cards can be combined under each category.

The older child can deal with both ascending and descending hierarchies, which the younger child cannot.

Stages:

Children at the **pre-operational** stage are starting to abstract common properties from objects and can sort into one category at a time.

Children at the **concrete operational** stage come to successfully deal with the three kinds of classification tasks shown in this video.

With **formal reasoning**, young people are able to construct their own hierarchical classifications, defining superordinate and subordinate classes.

RELATED FILMS

Also available from Davidson Films:

PIAGET'S DEVELOPMENTAL THEORY: AN OVERVIEW (1989) 25 minutes

CONCRETE OPERATIONS (1993) 25 minutes

ADOLESCENT COGNITION: THINKING IN A NEW KEY (1999) 30 minutes

MORALITY: JUDGMENTS AND ACTION (2002) 32 minutes

VYGOTSKY'S DEVELOPMENTAL THEORY: AN INTRODUCTION (1994) 28 minutes

*This video is part of the **Classic Piaget** collection.*

The other videos include:

Classic Piaget Collection Volume 1:

CLASSIFICATION (1968) 16 minutes

CONSERVATION (1968) 29 minutes

GROWTH OF INTELLIGENCE IN THE PRESCHOOL YEARS (1971) 31 minutes

Classic Piaget Collection Volume 2:

FORMAL REASONING PATTERNS (1978) 32 minutes

JEAN PIAGET: MEMORY AND INTELLIGENCE (1973) 44 minutes

MORALITY: THE PROCESS OF MORAL DEVELOPMENT (1978) 28 minutes