

# THEORY INQUIRIES

## NATURE

Development is primarily influenced by biology (genetics)

### THEORY EXAMPLE

Nativist: emphasizes biological factors like the genetic code

## NURTURE

Development is primarily influenced by environment (socialization)

### THEORY EXAMPLE

Behaviorism: emphasizes conditioning and modeling

Most theories combine both ideas and say that both nature and nurture impact the child and their development

Erickson's Psychosocial theory: development is a combination of biological impulses and child-rearing experiences

## CONTINUOUS

Development builds upon previous knowledge

Changes and development are gradual

### THEORY EXAMPLE

Information processing: children learn as they go; through trial and error

## DISCONTINUOUS

Development occurs at specific times or stages

Assumed that they will gain a new skill once a new stage is reached

### THEORY EXAMPLE

Piaget: skills appear as children reach stages (e.g. language acquisition)

## ONE COURSE

The context the child is in is universal

### THEORY EXAMPLE

Piaget: all children go through the same contexts and stages (e.g. walking, running, etc.)

## MANY COURSES

Contexts vary for every child

Each child's path to development is different

### THEORY EXAMPLE

Vygotsky: children's contexts vary from child to child, culture to culture

Some theories are both continuous and discontinuous!  
 • Vygotsky's Sociocultural Theory: Children will reach a stage in which they learn to speak (discontinuous) but they learn through the many conversations they have with others (continuous).