

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

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).

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

Each child's path to development is the same

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