

8

2-8-07

Application Essay #1

— Piaget's theory has 4 stages

Piaget describes two stages that children progress through during development, preoperational and concrete operational. Preoperational is an intuitive based stage, meaning that the children make decisions about the world around them based on their feelings and the appearance of everything rather than with logic. Children then progress to concrete operational thinking, which is logic based.

Molly sees that the more pieces of broccoli there are, the more there is for her to eat. This is part of an aspect of concrete operational thinking known as conservation.

Because she thinks there is more broccoli even though the mass hasn't changed, she is showing the pre-operational concept of a lack of conservation of mass

Conservation is the concept that an object has the same mass or volume even when it changes forms. This also demonstrates her inability to use reversibility, which is related to conservation. Reversibility is the concept that an object can change forms, then change back to its original form. Since Molly is still in the preoperational stage, she is unable to use conservation or reversibility to understand that the broccoli is not multiplying.

goal

While this is a problem when trying to get her to eat her vegetables, it can be an advantage when she wants more chocolate for dessert. This means that when Molly asks for two pieces of chocolate when you have offered her one, you can break one piece into two and she won't realize that she's still getting the same amount of chocolate.

Good ideas, but some of your explanations are unclear.