

# TOPIC 3: Development

LI: Are children as egocentric as Piaget thought?

## Starter – Retrieval Quiz

1. What is the name of Piaget's theory about how children develop?

2. What were the names of the 4 stages Piaget identified in his theory? (Bonus point if you get them in order).

3. What is it called when babies think an item no longer exists when it disappears?

4. What is it called when children can only think from their point of view?

5. What is it called when children know that something stays the same amount even though it looks different?

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## Starter – Retrieval Quiz

1. What is the name of Piaget's theory about how children develop?	Theory of cognitive development
2. What were the names of the 4 stages Piaget identified in his theory? (Bonus point if you get them in order).	Sensorimotor, Pre-operational, Concrete operational, Formal operational
3. What is it called when babies think an item no longer exists when it disappears?	Object permanence
4. What is it called when children can only think from their point of view?	Egocentric
5. What is it called when children know that something stays the same amount even though it looks different?	Conservation

# Learning Intentions

4/5 (All) – Outline a study into egocentrism.

6/7 (Most) – Compare research into egocentrism and Piaget's theory of egocentrism.

8/9 (Some) – Evaluate and apply research into egocentrism.

Low

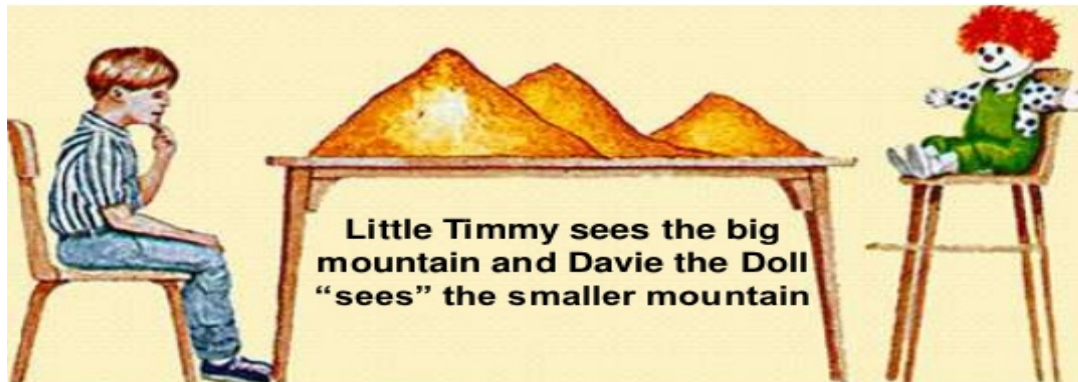
High

What is your initial confidence towards the LIs?

# Recap – Piaget and Egocentric

Egocentric – only being able to see the world from your own point of view.

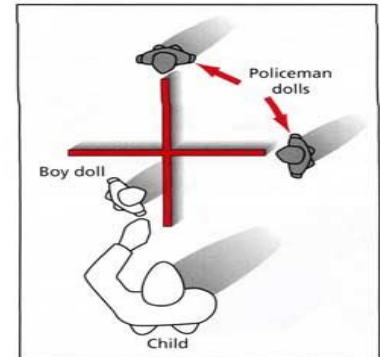
Piaget said that children in the preoperational stage (2-7) were egocentric.



But are children so young so incapable of seeing someone else's point of view?

A psychologist called Hughes didn't think so... He said the mountain task was not realistic enough for children...

And he proved it with a famous study...



# Hughes (1978) – Policeman Doll

## Aim

To see if children can see things from another person's point of view.

## Method

30 children aged 3½ -5 years old. Each child was shown a model with two intersecting walls. Two policeman dolls were placed by one of the walls and the child had to hide a doll so the policemen couldn't see it.

## Results

90% of the children were able to place the boy doll where the two policeman dolls could not see it.

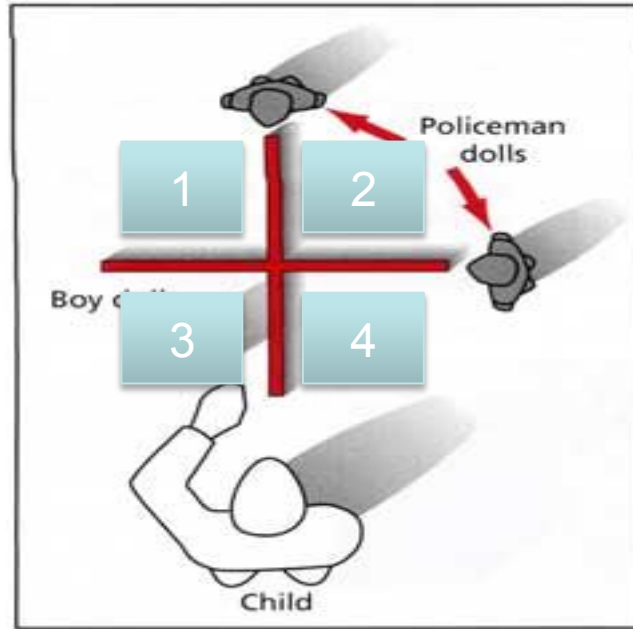
## Conclusion

Children aged 3½ -5 can see things from someone's point of view, contrary to what Piaget thought.

# Hughes Task Explained

1. Hughes put up a red wall like in the picture. It looks like the 'addition' sign in maths. This means there were 4 sections.

2. He then placed two policeman dolls at very specific locations. These policeman dolls could see into 2 sections each.

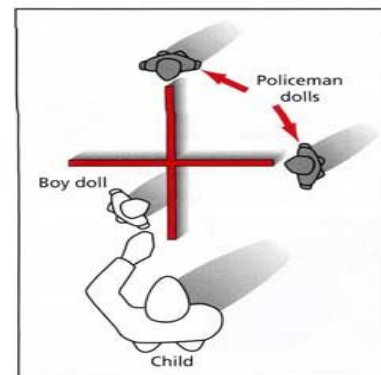


3. He then told the children to place the doll in the section so that the policeman dolls could not see the doll. There was only one correct answer. Section 3.

4. If a child was egocentric, they would place it away from themselves. They didn't. They mostly got it right!

# Understanding Hughes (1978)

- 1) Copy down the study like we do in lessons.
- 2) Draw a picture of a policeman or of the study design and annotate your picture with the key method points and results.
- 3) How would you start to evaluate this study?



## Challenge

Why do you think that these children were able to complete this task but not the mountain task by Piaget?



# Evaluation

+

What do you think is good about this study?

Draw your evaluation grid.

Answers on the next page!

-

What do you think is bad about this study?

# Evaluation

+

The task was more similar to the kind of problems children have in everyday life. (Hide and seek and child-friendly).

Other studies that have simplified and child-friendly tasks show similar results.

-

The study was in an unusual environment. Their behaviour may not have been completely natural. Low ecological validity.

There is a risk that the researcher may have hinted at the correct answer.

The sample is very small and not generalisable

# Applying it: Dinner is late!

Dan (9) and Nina's (3) mum works late sometimes as she has a busy job. This means that sometimes their dinner is made later than they would normally expect. Dan is able to forgive his mum but Nina thinks that mummy is 'horrible' and she also doesn't understand why dinner isn't on time.

**Why is Dan more able to forgive his mum than his sister?**

**Refer to egocentrism in your answer.**



**Challenge – how could you recreate Piaget's mountain task to make it more realistic?**

# Exam Questions

1. Briefly outline what the participants were asked to do in Hughes' policeman doll study. (2)
2. Explain one evaluation of Hughes' policeman doll study. (3)
3. Explain one evaluation of Piaget's theory of cognitive development. (3) **Think how today's work proves him wrong.**  
**Piaget's theory is criticised for thinking that children were not as clever as they are. For example...**

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Low

High

What is your new confidence towards the LIs?

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## Consolidation

- 1.Name the 4 stages of Piaget's theory of cognitive development.
- 2.What is meant by cognition?
- 3.What is a schema and how does it expand?
- 4.What does Piaget mean by 'egocentrism'?
- 5.Maria is 5 years old. According to Piaget, explain her cognitive abilities.