PsychSim 5: COGNITIVE DEVELOPMENT

Name: _______________________________    Section: ______________________

Date: ______________________________________

This activity describes Piaget’s theory of the growth of intelligence and simulates the performance of
three children of different ages on some of Piaget’s tasks.

Schemas

• What are schemas?

• Explain the difference between assimilation and accommodation.

• Suppose that a 15-month-old toddler has learned to call the four-legged house pet a “doggie.”
  What do you think would happen if the child sees a horse for the first time? Is the child likely to
  call the horse a “horsie” or a “doggie” or a “doggie-horse” or some other term? Write your best
  guess in the space below, and add a sentence explaining why you think the child would use that
  term to refer to the horse.

Stages of Development

• What are some characteristics of a child in the sensorimotor stage of development? What is object
  permanence?

• What are some cognitive limitations of preschoolers? What is egocentrism?

• A child in the concrete operations stage can reason differently than can a child in the sensorimotor
  stage. For example, if shown two identical balls of clay, one of which has been rolled into a rope,
  an older child (in the concrete operational period) might decide that the ball and the rope both
  have the same amount of clay. What kinds of reasoning do you think the older child might use to
draw that conclusion?
Measures of Mental Operations

• What are some differences in mental operations among the three children in the conservation of number/checkers task?

• What are some differences in mental operations among the three children in the conservation of liquid/water glass task?

• What are some differences in mental operations among the three children in the seriation/sticks task?

• What are some differences in mental operations among the three children in the seriation without visible objects/word problem task?