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Applying Piaget's theory of cognitive development to mathematics instruction.

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Summary: This paper is based on a presentation given at National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM) in 2005 in Anaheim, California. It explicates the developmental stages of the child as posited by Piaget. The author then ties each of the stages to developmentally appropriate mathematics instruction. The implications in terms of not imposing unfamiliar ideas on the child and importance of peer interaction are highlighted.

Classification: C30 F20 D20

Keywords: developmental psychology; cognitive development; teaching; mathematics education; sensorimotor stage; preoperational stage; concrete operations stage; formal operations stage; pre number activities; first arithmetical instruction; propaedeutics