Contents

Preface

xiii Acknowledgments

GENERAL PERSPECTIVES ON CHILDREN'S THINKING		
1	An Introduction to Children's Thinking	1
	What Is Children's Thinking? 2	
	Key Issues About Children's Thinking What capabilities are innate? 4	4
	Does development progress through stages? How does change occur? 8 How do individuals differ? 10	6
	The Book's Organization 13 The chapter-by-chapter organization 13 The central themes 14	
	Summary 15	

16

Recommended Readings

2	Piaget's Theory of Development 17
	An Overview of Piaget's Theory 19
	The theory as a whole 19
	The stages of development 20
	Developmental processes 21
	Orienting assumptions 24
	The Stage Model 26
	The sensorimotor period 26
	The preoperational period 30
	The concrete operations period 34
	The formal operations period 37
	The Development of Some Critical Concepts 38
	Conservation 39
	Classes and relations 41
	An Evaluation of Piaget's Theory 47
	How accurately does the theory describe particular aspects of
	children's thinking? 47
	How stagelike is children's thinking? 49
	How well do Piaget's general characterizations fit children's
	thinking? 53
	The current status of Piaget's theory 54
	Summary 55
	Recommended Readings 57
	Recommended House 85
3	Information-Processing Theories of Development 58
J	An Overview of the Information-Processing System 62
	Structural characteristics 62
	Processes 64
	Information-Processing Theories of Development 66
	Sternberg's theory 67
	Case's theory 73
	Klahr and Wallace's theory 78
	Siegler's theory 82
	5
	Recommended Readings 89
	THE ACTION OF CHILDREN'S BUILDING
SIX	SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF CHILDREN'S THINKING
4	Perceptual Development 91
**	Vision 94
	V 151U11 3 ⁻¹

Attending to visual patterns

Identifying objects and events 102
Locating objects 111
Hearing 117
Attending to sounds 117
Identifying sounds 118 Auditory localization 122
Intersensory Integration 124
Attending 124
Identifying 125
Locating 125
Summary 130
Recommended Readings 131
Language Development 133
Phonology 138
How people speak 138
Development of phonology 139
Meaning 142
Early words and word meanings 142
Development beyond the earliest words and word meanings 146
Grammar 152
The earliest grammars 152
Later grammatical development 153 Explanations of grammatical development 155
•
Communication 158 Communication through oral language 159
Communication through oral language 159 Communication through gesture and sign language 160
Language and Thought 163
Summary 166
·
Recommended Readings 167
Memory Development 169
What Develops in Memory Development? 173
The Role of Basic Capacities 175
Recognition 175
Association, recall, and generalization 176
Infantile amnesia 177
Processing capacity 179
Processing speed 180
Evaluation 181

The Role of Strategies 181	
Searching for objects 182	
Rehearsing 183	
Organizing 185	
Elaborating 186	
Deploying cognitive resources 187	
Evaluation 189	
The Role of Metacognition 190 Explicit metacognitive knowledge 190 Implicit metacognitive knowledge 191 Evaluation 193 The Role of Content Knowledge 195	
Effects on how much children remember 195	
Effects on what children remember 196	
Content knowledge as an explanation for other memory changes How does content knowledge aid memory? 200 Evaluation 205	199
What Develops When in Memory Development? 205	
Summary 207	
Recommended Readings 209	
Conceptual Development 210	
Conceptual Representations in General 213	
Defining-features representations 213	
Probabilistic representations 217	
Exemplar-based representations 223	
Theory-based representations 225	
Development of Some Particularly Important Concepts	231
Time 231	
Space 234	
Number 240	
Mind 244	
Summary 248	
Recommended Readings 250	
Problem Solving 251	
An Overview of Problem Solving 253	
Central themes 253	
An example of the development of problem solving 257	
Some Important Problem-Solving Processes 266	

Planning 266

	Logical deduction 279
	Summary 285
	Recommended Readings 287
9	Development of Academic Skills 288
	Mathematics 290
	Basic arithmetic 293
	More-complex arithmetic 301
	Estimation 305 Algebra 306
	Computer programming 308
	Reading 309
	The typical chronological progression 309
	Prereading skills 310
	Identifying individual words 313
	Comprehension 316
	Writing 322
	The initial drafting process 323
	Revision 327
	Summary 329
	Recommended Readings 330
0	Conclusions for the Present; Challenges
	for the Future 332
	The Most Basic Issues: What Develops and How
	Does Development Occur? 333
	Current knowledge 334 Future issues 335
	Processes of Change 336 Current knowledge 336
	Future issues 338
	The Competent Infant 342
	Current knowledge 342
	Future issues 343
	Differences Among Age Groups 349
	Current knowledge 349
	Future issues 350

Causal inference

Analogy

Tool use

The Role of Content Knowledge 352 Current knowledge 353 Future issues Intelligence and the Deployment of Processing Resources 354 Current knowledge 354 Future issues 355 The Social Context of Children's Thinking 359 Current knowledge 360 Future issues 370 **Summary** Recommended Readings 372

References 373
Author Index 409
Subject Index 421