CONTENTS

List of figures About the authors Acknowledgements		xi xiii xv
101	Mowieugements	AV
1	Introduction: What is Human Thinking and How Does it Develop?	1
	1.1 What is this book about? A quick survey of the following chapters1.2 Criticism, debate, and worldviews	2
	1.3 Views of knowledge: constructivism	10
	Summary and conclusion	10
2	The Role of Biology in Psychological Development	13
	2.1 Nature, nurture, and forms of interaction	15
	2.2 Genetics, epigenetics, and developmental psychobiological systems	26
	2.3 Neuroconstructivism: shaping neural pathways through experience	29
	2.4 Relations between psychology and neuroscience	31
	Summary and conclusion	33
3	Constructivist Approaches to Children's Thinking	35
	3.1 Piaget's biography and his quest: how does knowledge develop?	37
	3.2 Four factors in development	42
	3.3 Developmental progress: Piaget's equilibration theory	43
	3.4 Understanding Piaget's stages	44
	3.5 Evaluating criticism of Piaget's theory	52
	Summary and conclusion	58

4	Sociocultural Approaches to Children's Thinking	61
	4.1 The social origin of the mind	61
	4.2 Sociocultural approaches: Lev Vygotsky	62
	4.3 Research evaluating Vygotsky's hypotheses	70
	4.4 Vygotsky and Piaget	77
	Summary and conclusion	79
5	The Development of Communication and Social Understanding	
	in Infancy	81
	5.1 Early steps in social processes: infant-caregiver interaction and early	
	development of communication	83
	5.2 Sharing a focus on an object: joint visual attention	87
	5.3 Following gaze direction: the eyes as windows on the soul?	89
	5.4 From gaze following to gestures: the emergence of intentional	
	communication	91
	5.5 Gestures based on head movements and signing	95
	Summary and conclusions	96
6	Theories of Communication and Social Understanding in Infancy	99
	6.1 Beginning with the individual	100
	6.2 Beginning with social activity: 'In the beginning is the deed'	109
	6.3 Imitation, culture, and pointing	117
	Summary and conclusions	119
7	Animal Communication and Human Language	121
	7.1 The evolution of meaning and language	122
	7.2 Can animals be taught languages?	122
	7.3 Implications of research on animal communication: the role of meaning	139
	Summary and conclusions	141
8	Language in Human Communication and Thinking	1.42
	_	143
	8.1 Theories of language	145
	8.2 Continuing debates between followers and critics of Chomsky	148
	8.3 The child's search for meaning in language	157
	8.4 The meaning of meaning	160
	Summary and conclusion	163

9	How Children Learn the Meaning of Words	167
	9.1 Grasping the meaning of words9.2 What do babies need to know before they can learn words?	167 168
	9.3 Theories of word learning	177
	9.4 The social-pragmatic account of early word learning	181
	Summary and conclusion	186
10	How Children Come to Control Their Behaviour	189
	10.1 Executive function: the skills and how they fit together	191
	10.2 Methodological issues in the analysis of executive function	196
	10.3 The nature of executive function: biological and social explanations	200
	10.4 Theoretical issues	207
	Summary and conclusion	209
11	Understanding the Social World	213
	11.1 A brief history: from perspective taking to false belief understanding	215
	11.2 Further development in social understanding: beyond (false) belief?	217
	11.3 Theories of social cognitive development	222
	11.4 Recent research and two current theoretical debates	225
	11.5 Social cognitive neuroscience: neurons and knowledge	229
	Summary and conclusion	239
12	Social Interaction, Language, and Social Understanding	243
	12.1 The influence of the social context	244
	12.2 Language and social understanding	251
	12.3 Language, minds, and social understanding: theoretical issues	258
	12.4 Social understanding and children's social lives	262
	Summary and conclusions	266
13	Moral Reasoning and Action	269
	13.1. What is morality?	270
	13.2 The dimensions of morality	272
	13.3 Jean Piaget's theory of moral development	275
	13.4 Lawrence Kohlberg's theory of moral development	279
	13.5 Criticisms of Kohlberg's theory	285
	13.6 Social-cognitive domain theory	290
	Summary and conclusions	292

14	Recent Issues in Moral Development	295
	14.1 Emotions and morality	296
	14.2 Morality and neuroscience	301
	14.3 Evolution and morality	305
	14.4 The development of prosocial behaviour: helping and cooperating	307
	Summary and overall conclusions	314
Rei	References	
	Subject Index	
	Author Index	