

Jean Piaget



...is considered by many to be the greatest child psychologist of the 20th century.

Piaget believed...



...that children are not simply mini-adults, but are qualitatively different.

They think differently.

They are cognitively different.

Jean Piaget

Einstein once said that Piaget's theory that children don't think like grown-ups was “so simple that only a genius could have thought of it”.

Piaget was intrigued by...



...the
common
errors that
children
make.

In a list of errors,



Piaget focused his attention
on the wrong answers.

Yet he pointed out
that these answers...



**often make sense within the
framework of the child's "way of
knowing".**

Typical errors...

What if
your name
were Peter?



Then I'd
be a boy.

Typical errors...

Do you have a
brother?

What's his
name?

Does Jim
have a sister?



Yes.

Jim.

No.

“Children have real understanding only of that which they invent themselves, and each time that we try to teach them something too quickly, we keep them from reinventing it themselves.”

Piaget





Piaget: What makes the wind?

Julia (age 5): The trees.

Piaget: How do you know?

Julia: I saw them waving their arms.



Piaget believed that it is important for children to practise the art of **creating theories**. They are like **little scientists** who learn through a process of active construction, rather than through passively receiving information.

Piaget - true or false? State your answer with an explanatory sentence.



- 1. Children think like miniature adults.**
- 2. Children learn through creating theories.**
- 3. Children make a number of cognitive errors according to the maturational stage they are in.**
- 4. It's important to teach children to overcome their typical errors.**
- 5. Piaget was interested in why children get certain answers right.**
- 6. Children are like “little scientists”.**

Piaget - true or false? State your answer with an explanatory sentence.

1. Children think like miniature adults.

False. Children think in a manner that is qualitatively different from adults.

2. Children learn through creating theories.

True. They are like “little scientists” who actively construct their understanding of the world.

3. Children make a number of cognitive errors according to the maturational stage they are in.

True. There are common faults in logic and reasoning that all children make.

Piaget - true or false? State your answer with an explanatory sentence.

4. It's important to teach children to overcome their typical errors.

Often false. They need a stimulating environment in which they can figure out the right answers themselves, through constructing and experiencing. Trying to correct their common mistakes too early may be counterproductive.

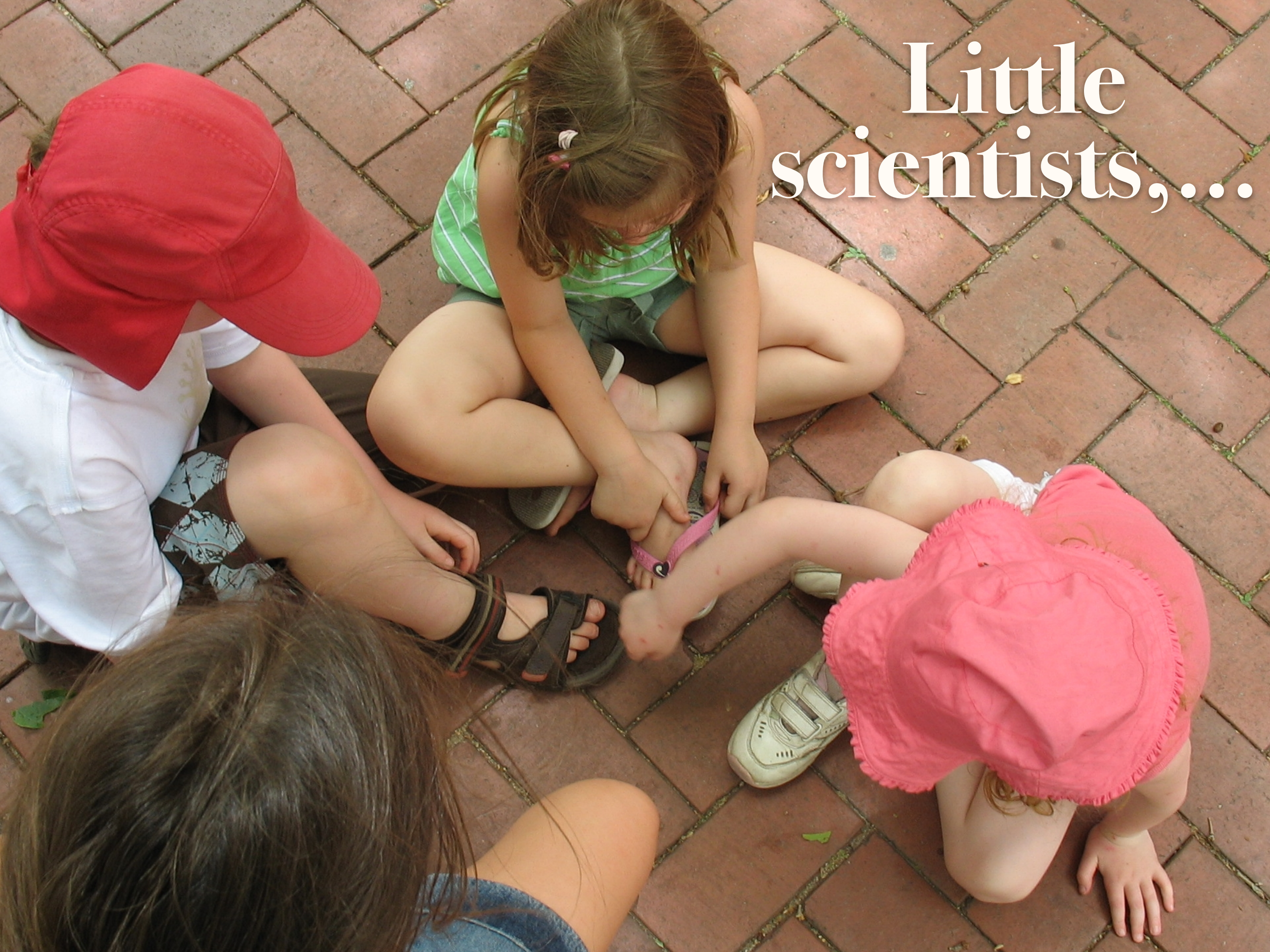
5. Piaget was interested in why children get certain answers right.

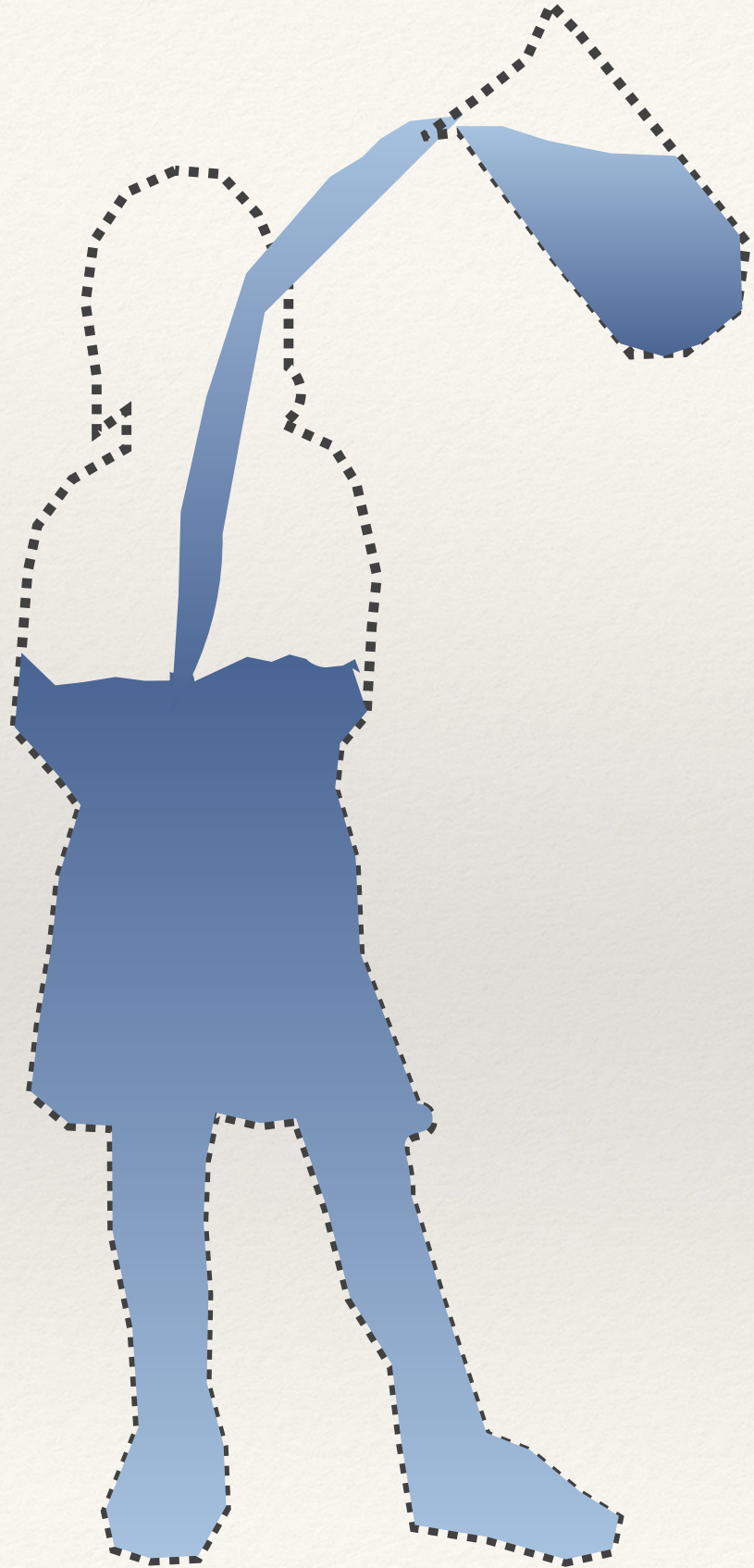
False. He was intrigued by the reasoning underlying their wrong answers.

6. Children are like “little scientists”.

True. They actively construct rather than passively receiving information.

Little
scientists,...





...not empty
vessels into
which
learning
can be
poured

Activity

You are designing an educational program in a new primary school. You have complete freedom to apply Piaget's ideas in your school.

- What activities, methods and strategies would you introduce?
- What aspects of our current education system might you modify or abolish?

Activity

- How might you advise teachers?
- How might you set up classrooms and playgrounds?
- What would you encourage children to do and develop?
- What would you modify or abolish?

Activity

Advice for Teachers



Methods / Activities



Classrooms /Playgrounds



I would modify or
abolish...

