

## Piaget compared with the Information Processing approach

Piaget says...	IP approach says...	Example: conservation	Which is right?
<p>Younger children's thinking is limited by the inaccuracy and illogic of the mental representations they form.</p>	<p>Younger children's thinking is limited by restrictions on their capacity for processing information.</p>	<p>Piaget would say younger children can't conserve because they don't have logical operations to structure their understanding of what's happening during the transformations. The IP approach would say that they can't conserve because they can't process multiple pieces of information (e.g. height and width) simultaneously.</p>	
<p>Changes in performance reflect qualitative changes in the child's ability to form accurate mental representations.</p>	<p>Changes in performance reflect quantitative changes in the child's capacity for processing information.</p>	<p>Piaget would say that the appearance of conservation reflects the appearance of operations like reversibility in children's thinking. The IP approach would say that it reflects an expansion in the amount of information they can process at once.</p>	
<p>Children's thinking develops in stages, each qualitatively different from the last. The transition between stages is relatively sudden.</p>	<p>Children's thinking develops gradually, as their capacity for processing information increases and they acquire new strategies for dealing with problems.</p>	<p>Piaget would say that around the age of seven children acquire the operations that allow them to conserve in different contexts (liquid quantity, mass, number etc.). The IP approach would say that although an increase in capacity underlies all of these abilities, each may be acquired separately as the child's experiences allow.</p>	

