Historical Theories

Attachment Theory

John Bowlby
Mary Ainsworth
Early responsive, nurturing care
• Teaches infants that the world is a safe place
• Teaches infants that their needs will be met
• Provides the foundation for successful social-emotional development throughout life

Behaviorism

John Locke
Ivan Pavlov
John Watson
B.F. Skinner
• Rewards and punishment can change behavior
• Humans can be conditioned to behave in certain ways

Psychoanalytic Theory

Sigmund Freud
• Exploration of the unconscious mind in order to cure
• All thoughts and activities are influenced by the unconscious mind

Cognitive Development Theory

Jean Piaget
• Children actively construct their own learning
• Consists of stages
  – Sensorimotor (Birth to 2 years)
  – Preoperational (2 – 7 years)
  – Concrete operations (7 – 11 years)
  – Formal operations (11 years and beyond)

Sociocultural Theory

Lev Vygotsky
• Social interaction leads to continuous step-by-step changes in children’s thought and behavior
• Can vary greatly from culture to culture