

AP Psychology

COGNITIVE DEVELOPMENT ACROSS THE LIFESPAN

**Unit 3: Development &
Learning**

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Stages of Cognitive
Development

Continuous vs. Discontinuous



Forming & Modifying Schemas



Existing Schema: His four-legged pet is a dog.

Schema



Assimilation

Same Schema



Accommodation

Change Concept

Sensorimotor

Infancy through toddlerhood

- ◆ **Senses**
- ◆ **Object permanence**

The awareness that things continue to exist even when not perceived.





Preoperational

Toddlerhood through early childhood

Mental symbols

Pretend play

Mental representations of objects
in the world around them

Fantasy or make-believe
play that includes an as-if
orientation to actions,
objects, and peers. It often
involves playing a distinct
role, such as mother,
teacher, or doctor.





Preoperational

Toddlerhood through early childhood

Mental symbols

Pretend play

Animism

Egocentrism

The belief that natural phenomena or inanimate objects are alive or possess lifelike characteristics, such as intentions, desires, and feelings

The inability to see the world through the perspective of another.





Preoperational

Toddlerhood through early childhood

Mental symbols

Pretend play

Animism

Egocentrism

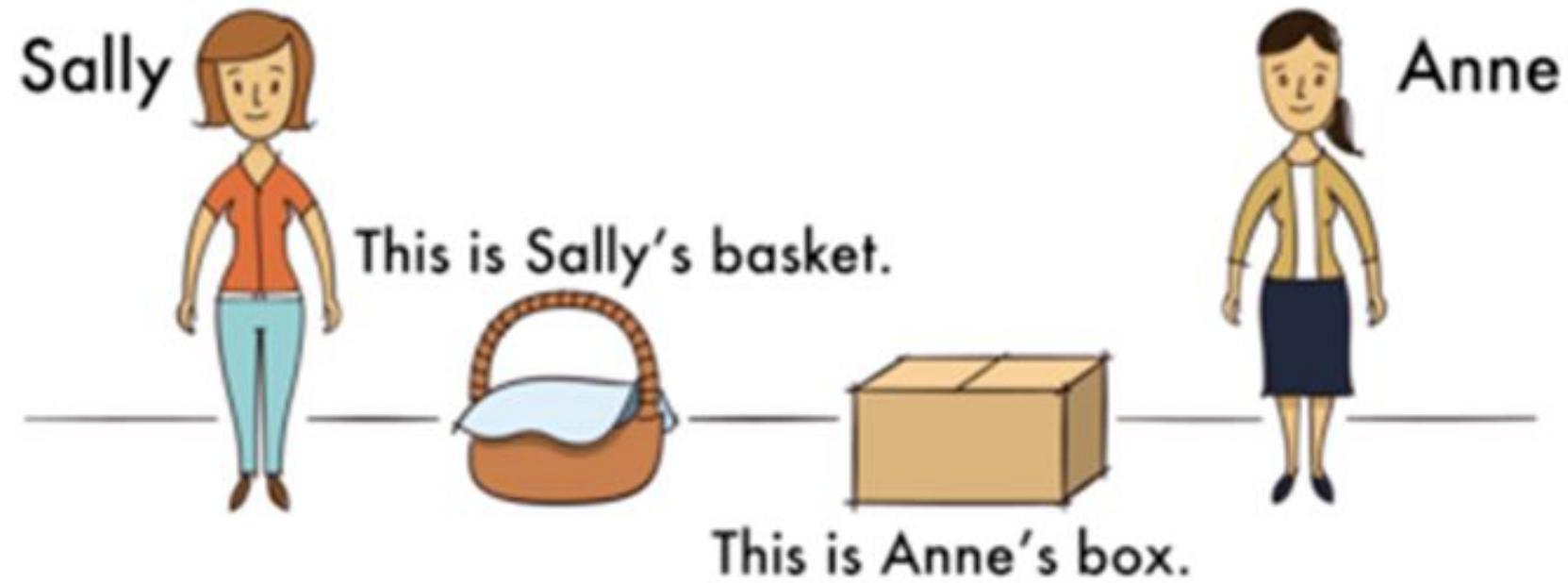
Conservation

Reversibility

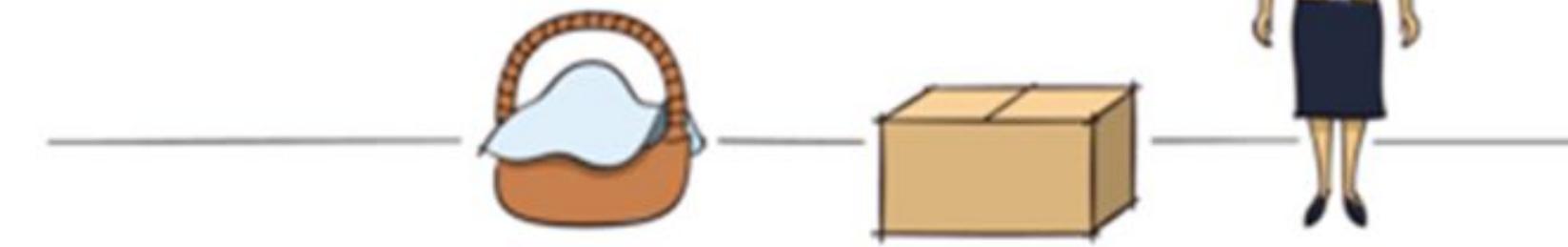
The principle that properties such as mass, volume, and number remain the same despite changes in the forms of objects.

A mental operation that reverses a sequence of events or restores a changed state of affairs to the original condition.

THEORY OF MIND



Sally goes out of the room
and leaves Anne alone.



Anne takes the ball out
of the basket . . .



When Sally comes back . . .
she wants to play with the ball.



Where will Sally look for her ball?

Concrete Operational

Early through late childhood



- ◆ Conservation
- ◆ Reversibility
- ◆ Multicategorical
- ◆ Logical thought
- ◆ Systematic thinking

Formal Operational

Late childhood through adulthood

- Abstract thinking
- Hypothetical reasoning

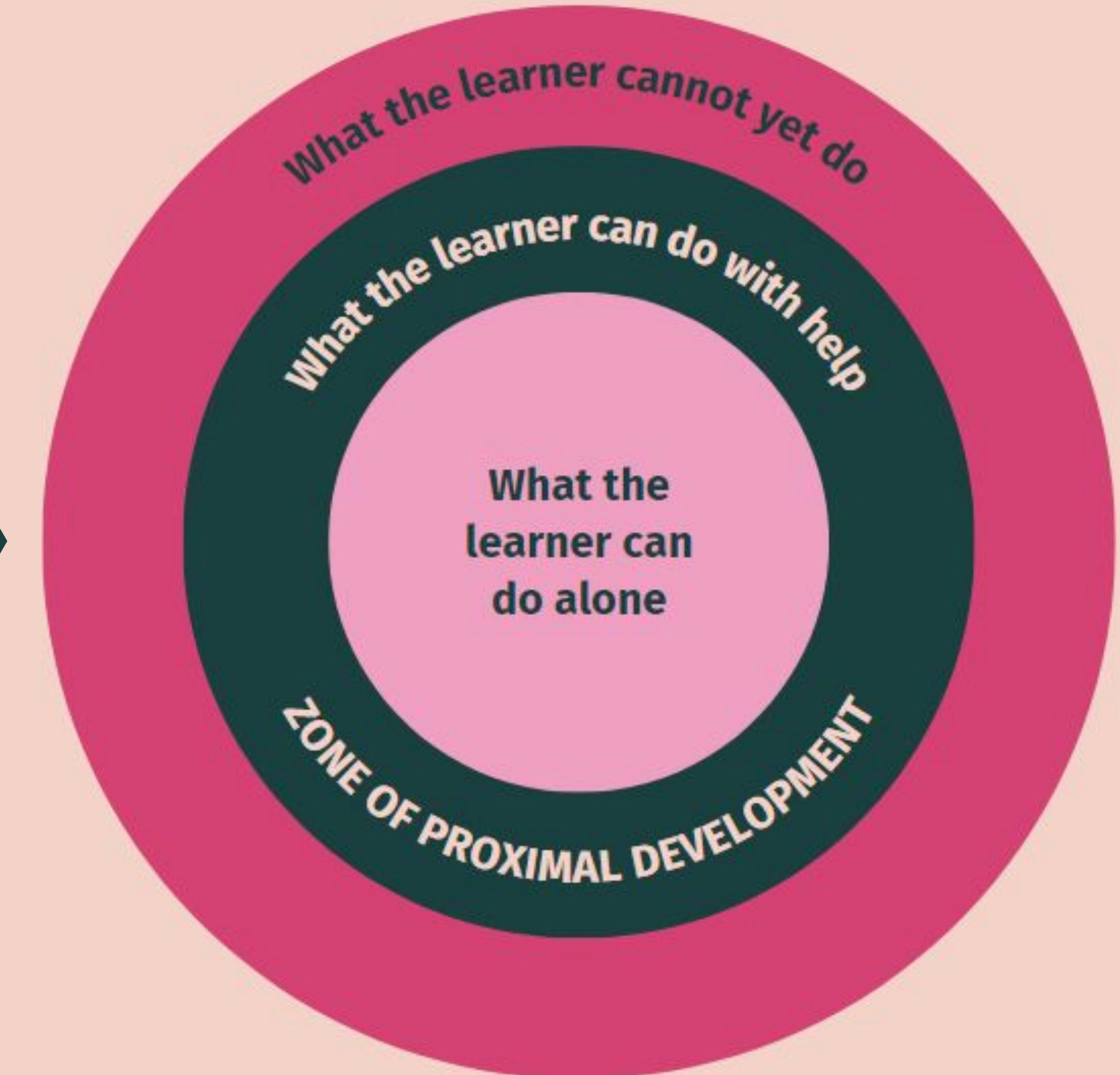


LEV VYGOTSKY

Sociocultural context



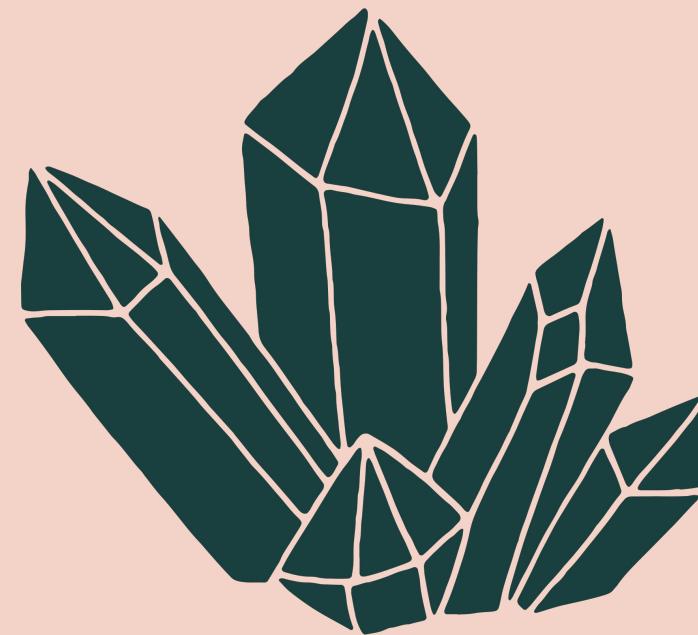
Zone of Proximal Development



ADULTHOOD



Cognitive Capabilities



**Crystallized
intelligence**



**Fluid
intelligence**

Dementia

