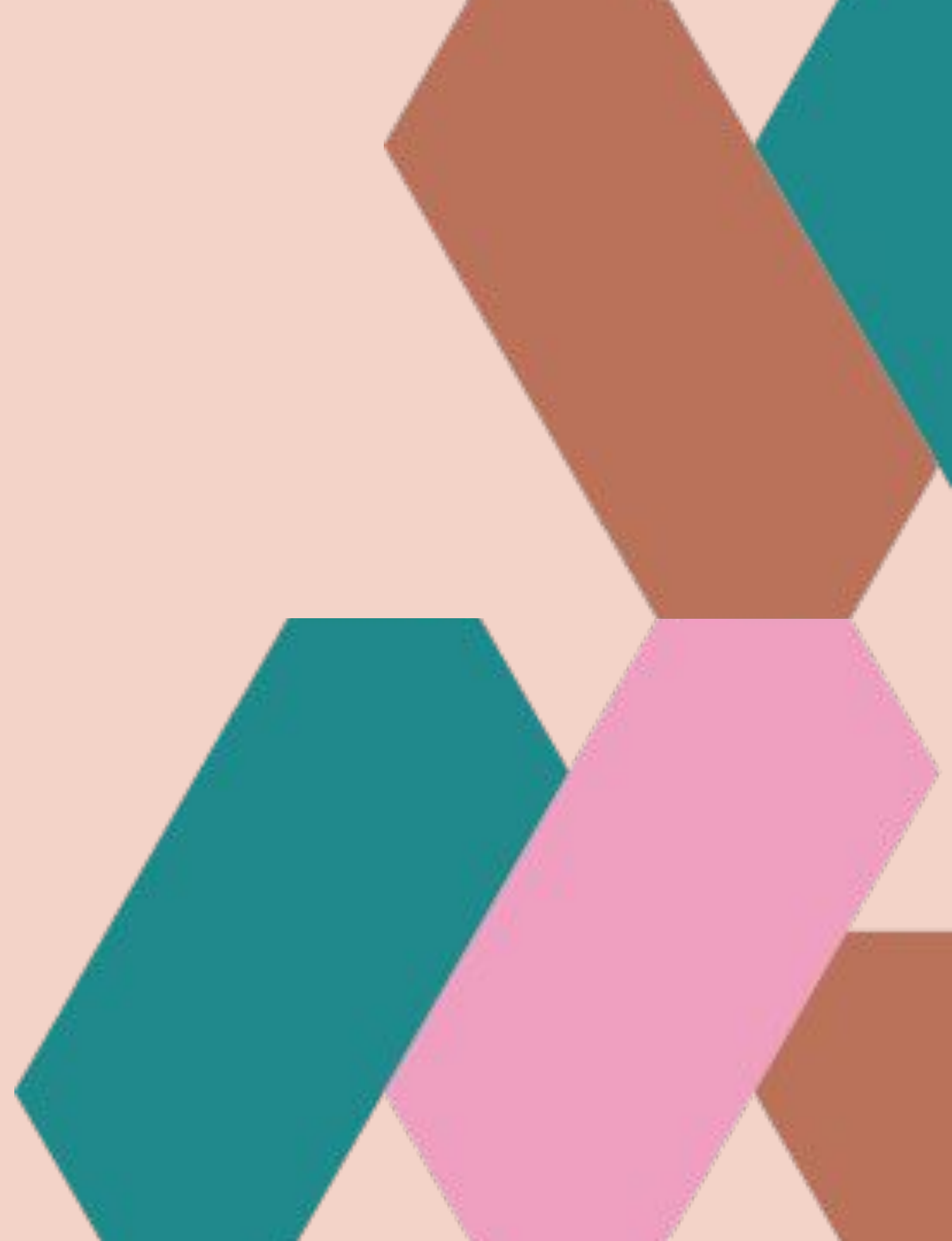


AP Psychology

# **COGNITIVE DEVELOPMENT ACROSS THE LIFESPAN**

**Unit 3: Development &  
Learning**



# JEAN PIAGET

## Stages of Cognitive Development

Continuous vs. Discontinuous



# Forming & Modifying Schemas



**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**

Mental representations of objects  
in the world around them

**Pretend play**

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**

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

**Egocentrism**

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



# Preoperational

Toddlerhood through early childhood

**Mental symbols**



**Pretend play**

**Animism**

**Egocentrism**

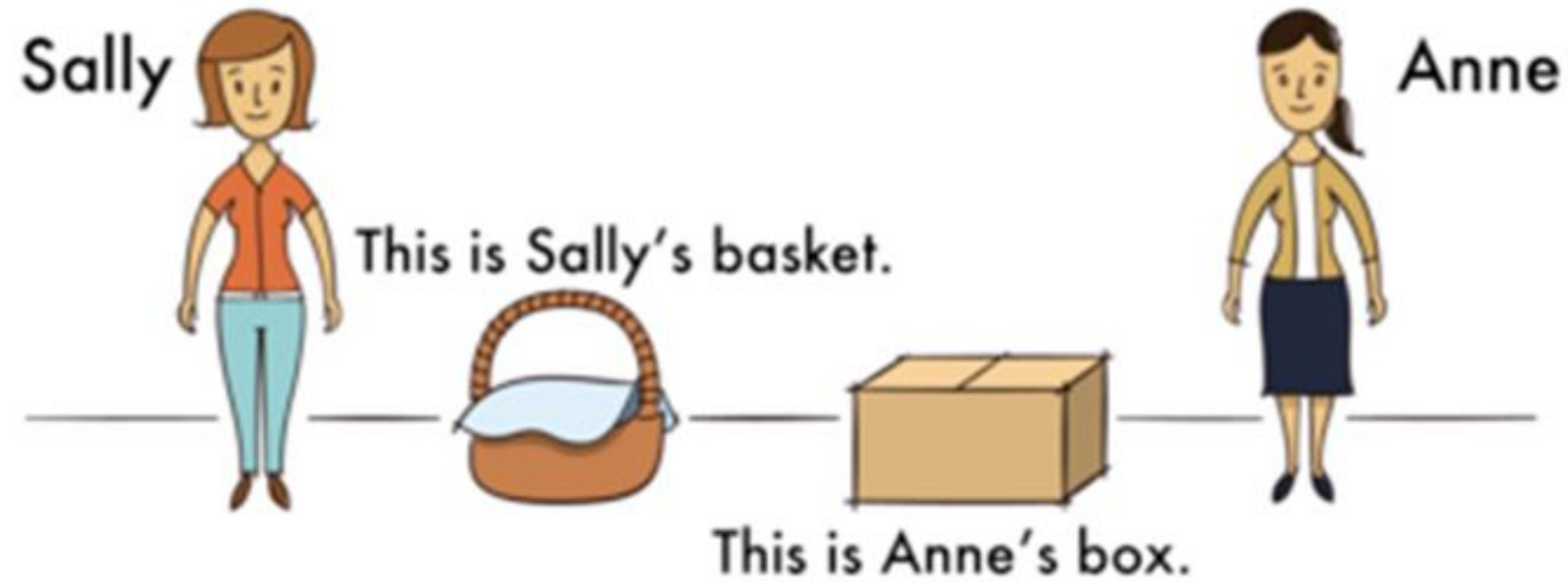
**Conservation**

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

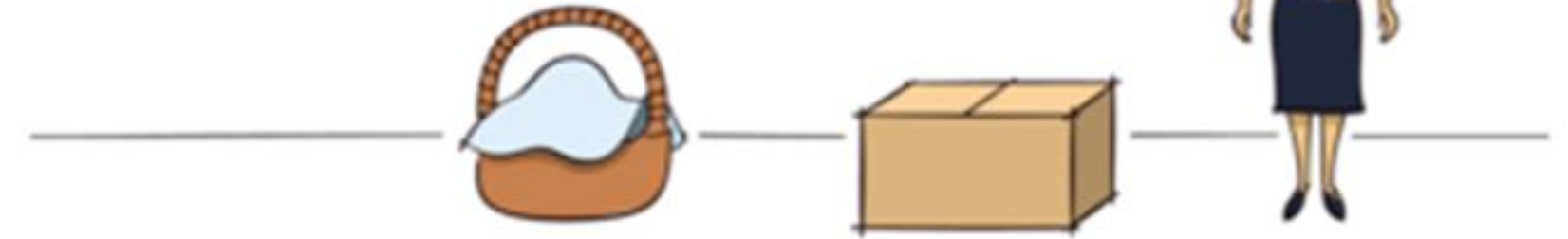
**Reversibility**

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 . . .



# Concrete Operational

Early through late childhood



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



# Formal Operational

**Late childhood through adulthood**

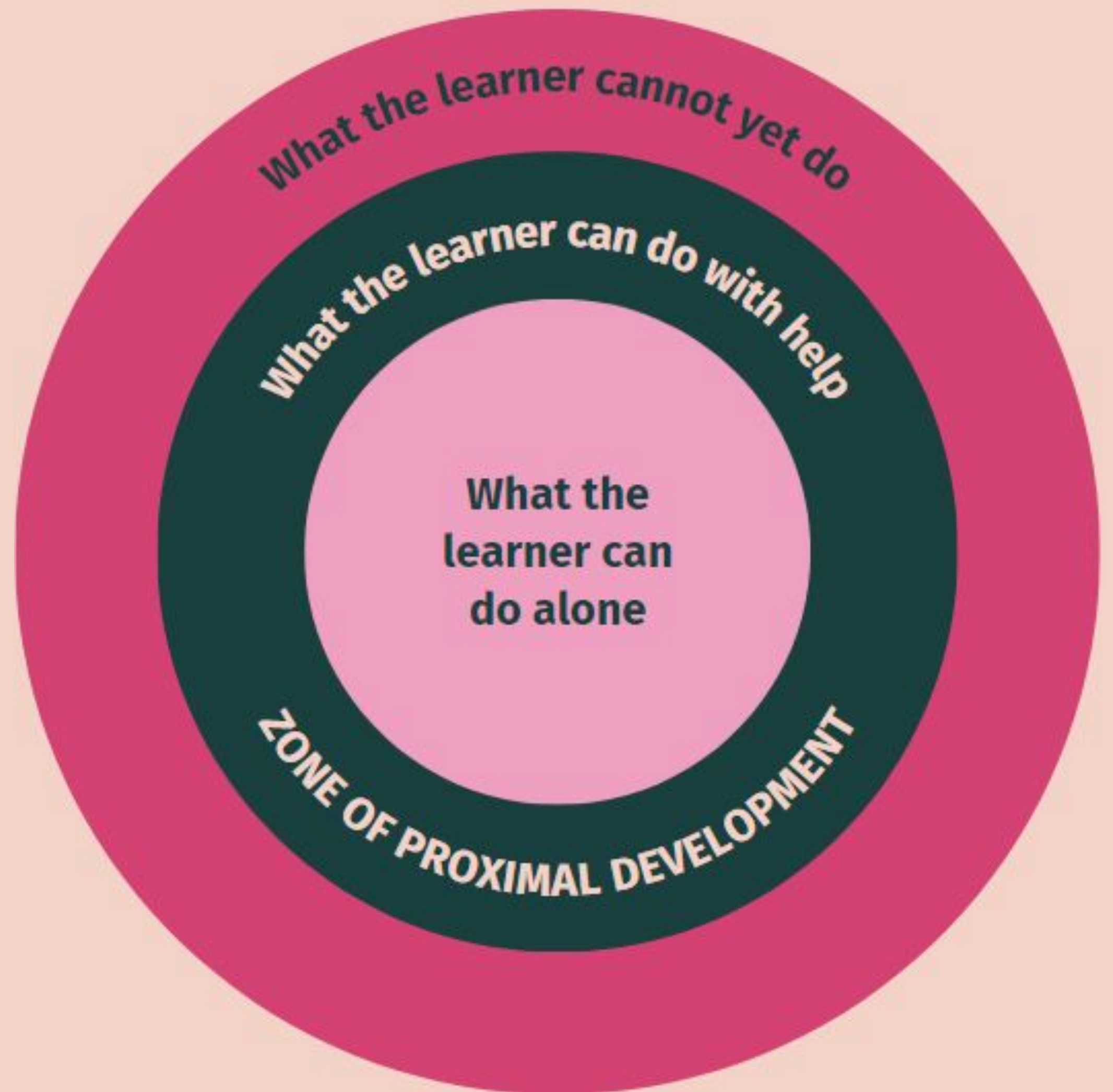
- ◆ **Abstract thinking**
- ◆ **Hypothetical reasoning**

# LEV VYGOTSKY

Sociocultural context



# Zone of Proximal Development



# ADULTHOOD



# Cognitive Capabilities



**Crystallized  
intelligence**



**Fluid  
intelligence**

# Dementia

