

CONCRETE OPERATIONAL STAGE

School-age children are in Piaget's concrete operational stage. This means that they have learned to reason and to use simple deductive logic to reach conclusions. Basically, school-age children can imagine what another person might be thinking or feeling and, therefore, be a more logical and flexible thinker. However, they cannot yet think abstractly. Their thinking must involve concrete or real objects.

It is during the concrete operational stage that the child masters the concept of reversibility and conservation. Reversibility, for example, means that the child understand that if water is frozen it turns to ice and that if the ice is thawed, it returns to water. Conservation means that the child understands that matter (liquid or solid) remains the same, whatever shape it assumes.

Two visual aids that may be used with this concept are:

1. Have a ball of clay that can be molded into a ball, snake, etc. Although the ball of clay looks like it is different sizes, it is still the same size, just a different shape.
2. Have two different size of clear glasses. Fill each with a cup of water. Let the class see how different the same amount looks in different containers.