

There have been many theorists studying the development of children Freud, Vygotsky, Bruner, Piaget, Montessori and Froebel to name just a few. Play is something children do naturally and should be an important part of their daily routine. Learning through play influences a child's holistic development and also their physical, social and emotional development. Vygotsky believed that with the right balance of adult support children can develop and learn through play, like Vygotsky, Bruner also believed that the role of an adult during play is important and that children need to perfect one skill before moving on to the next stage. Freud believed that children could express themselves through play that they act out during play that they couldn't necessarily express orally. Piaget states that there are three stages of play, practice play, symbolic play and social play, he believed that these three stages of play correlate with the four stages of cognitive development, which are, sensorimotor stage, preoperational stage, concrete operational stage, and formal operational stage. Erikson's view was that events and conflicts in a childhood paved their lives. He believed that dealing with conflict successfully through childhood will be beneficial in adulthood and failing to do so children may not develop the skills they need to be strong independent adults. Similar to Piaget's theory of stages of play Parten's theory believed that children move through of six stages of play.