

## Theories of Development

Thus far we have concentrated on the child's physical development. In this section we will discuss the child's Cognitive and Language development.

Cognitive development is the process a child goes through to develop thinking and reasoning skills. While a child's Language development is characterized by a comprehension of word meanings and the ability to create sentences.

Children under age 2 are in the **Sensory Motor Stage** of development and children 2-7 years of age are in the **Pre-Operational Stage**. During the Sensory Motor Stage children interact with the world around them and learn by hearing, grabbing, tasting, and/or seeing objects in their immediate world. Remember, to infants, objects are real only if they are in sight. Children in the Pre-Operational Stage have acquired the knowledge to represent objects without the objects presence. In other words, children are able to pretend their toys are other items or people.