PSY 150
GROUP PROJECT ON DEVELOPMENT

INTRODUCTION

Over the course of the semester, the class will investigate how children at various stages of development think. In doing so, we will collect, analyze, and interpret data that may tend to confirm or disconfirm both Piaget's theory of cognitive development and Kohlberg's stages of moral development. Our two major research questions will be:

Do children of the same age think similarly?
Do children of different ages think differently?

To do this, we will divide the class into three groups. Each group will investigate children at different Piagetian stages of development: preoperations, concrete operations, and formal operations.

TASKS

To determine each child's stage of cognitive development, each child will perform two tasks under the guidance of one of the class researchers: a response to a moral dilemma and an explanation of a natural phenomenon. Group members will compare and contrast the responses of the children in their group for each task and report their findings together using standard psychological report format (see guide attached).

Consequently over the course of the semester, each group will submit two draft reports, one for each task, and a final report in which the group will come to some general conclusions about the research question, "Do children of the same age think similarly?"

On May 3, the second to last day of class, each group will present its report, and together as a class we will discuss the second research question, "Do children of different ages think differently?"

TIMELINE

Following is the schedule for the group project on development.

Feb 1 Go over project and form groups

Bring in first name, age (years, months), relationship of child you will interview. (Note: If the child is not your own, be sure you get the permission of the parent to interview the child.) Compile a list with this all this information for your group and submit a copy to me as well.

Feb 8 Moral Dilemma assignment out

Mar 1 Submit Moral Dilemma draft report to me (one report per group).

Mar 8 Natural Phenomenon assignment out

Mar 29 Submit Natural Phenomenon draft report to me (one report per group).

May 3 Present and hand in Final Group Report (one report per group)