

Bruner's Constructivist THEORY

WHO IS BRUNER?



Jerome Bruner, an influential psychologist and educator, is renowned for his contributions to constructivist theory. His work, influenced by Jean Piaget, has significantly impacted how educators understand and facilitate the learning process.

What is Constructivism?

Constructivist theory posits that learning is an active, constructive process. Bruner believed that learners construct new ideas or concepts based on their current and past knowledge

Key Principles

Active Learning: Learners construct knowledge through active engagement and discovery, rather than passive reception of information.

Categorization: Organizing and categorizing information is essential for learning and understanding new concepts.

Spiral Curriculum: Complex ideas are introduced at a simplified level first and revisited in more depth over time, building on previous knowledge to enhance understanding.

Nature of Learning and Intellectual Development

NATURE OF LEARNING

Bruner identified learning as an active process where learners:

- Select and transform information
- Make decisions
- Generate hypotheses
- Construct meaning from information and experiences

Learners continuously build upon their existing knowledge base, facilitating deeper understanding and retention.

SCAFFOLDING

Bruner introduced the concept of instructional scaffolding. This involves:

- Providing temporary support to learners, which is gradually removed as they become more proficient
- The support can come from teachers, peers, or educational materials,
- It helps learners achieve higher levels of understanding.

DEVELOPMENT

Bruner outlined three stages of intellectual development:

- **Enactive Stage:** Learning through direct manipulation and action on objects.
- **Iconic Stage:** Learning through images and visual aids.
- **Symbolic Stage:** Learning through abstract symbols and language.

These stages are not strictly sequential but represent different modes of representing knowledge that can overlap and integrate.