



LEV VYGOTSKY

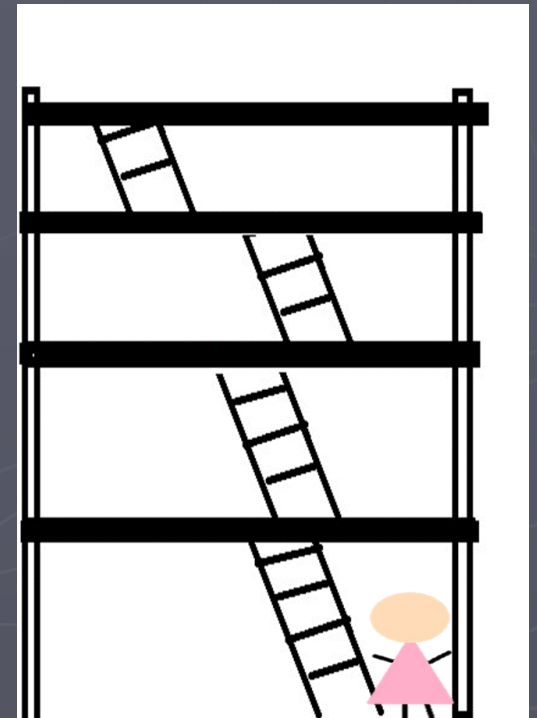
SOCIO-CULTURAL THEORY OF COGNITIVE DEVELOPMENT

- Cognitive development occurs in a sociocultural context that influences the form it takes
- Most of a child's cognitive skills evolve from social interactions with parents, teachers, and other more competent associates

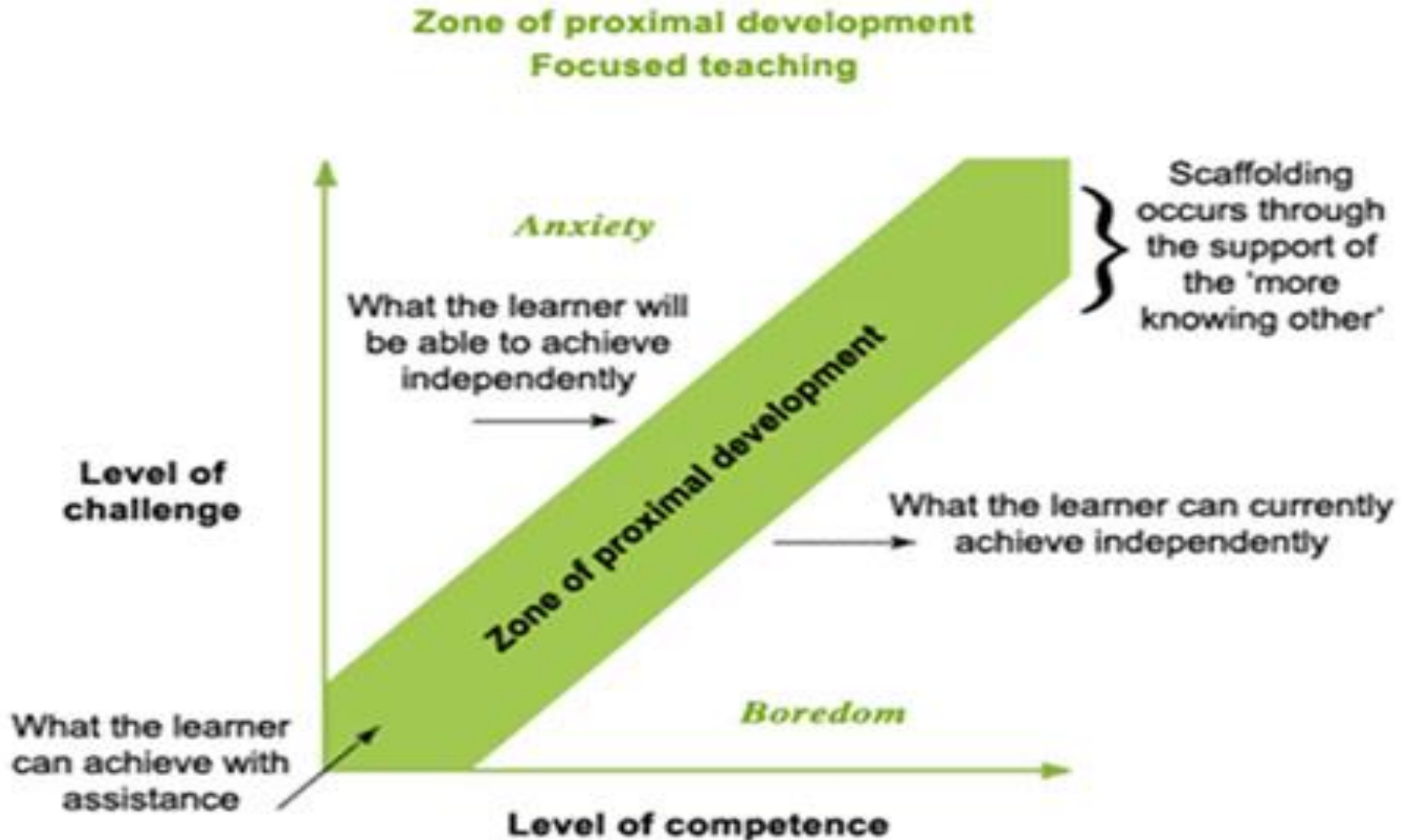
The Social Origins of Early Cognitive Competencies:

► Zone of Proximal Development - range of tasks that are too complex to be mastered alone but can be accomplished with guidance and encouragement from a "more knowing other."

- *Scaffolding*- the expert participant carefully tailors their support to the novice learner to assure their understanding



SCAFFOLDING





CONCEPTUAL DIFFERENCES

BETWEEN

VYGOTSKY

and

PIAGET



1. COGNITIVE DEVELOPMENT IS PRIMARILY A FUNCTION OF

SOCIO-CULTURAL INTERACTION

Adult-child interaction



“More-knowing other”

INDIVIDUAL CONSTRUCTION

Active investigation



The role of language in cognitive development:

- ▶ According to Piaget:
 - Children partake in egocentric speech, utterances neither directed to others nor expressed in ways that the listeners might understand
 - Egocentric speech played a little role in cognitive development
 - Speech tended to become more social as the child matures-less egocentric

The role of language in cognitive development cont'd

► According to Vygotsky:

- Thought and language eventually emerge
- He called a child's *nonsocial utterances* private speech
- Private speech plays a major role in cognitive development by serving as a cognitive self-guidance system, allowing children to become more organized and good problem solvers
- As individuals develop, private speech becomes *inner speech*



CONCEPTUAL DIFFERENCES

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2. ROLE OF LANGUAGE AND PRIVATE SPEECH

LANGUAGE CRITICAL -
PRIVATE SPEECH BECOMES
THOUGHT THAT IS SELF-
REGULATING

ONCE LANGUAGE DEVELOPS,
COGNITION *IS* LANGUAGE

COGNITION CRITICAL -
EGOCENTRIC SPEECH
DISAPPEARS AS SOCIAL
SPEECH DEVELOPS

COGNITION MEDIATES
LANGUAGE

Which Viewpoint Should We Endorse?

- ▶ According to contemporary research:
 - Children rely heavily on private speech when facing difficult problems
 - There is a correlation between “self-talk” and *competence*
 - Private speech does eventually become inner speech and facilitates cognitive development

Theories of Cognitive Development: Vygotsky vs. Piaget

Vygotsky's sociocultural theory	Piaget's cognitive developmental theory
Cognitive development varies across cultures	Cognitive development is mostly universal across cultures
Stems from social interactions	Stems from independent explorations
Social processes become individual-physiological processes	Individual (egocentric) processes become social processes
Adults are important as change agents	Peers are important as change agents

Learning drives
development



Lev Vygotsky

One must
develop before
One learns

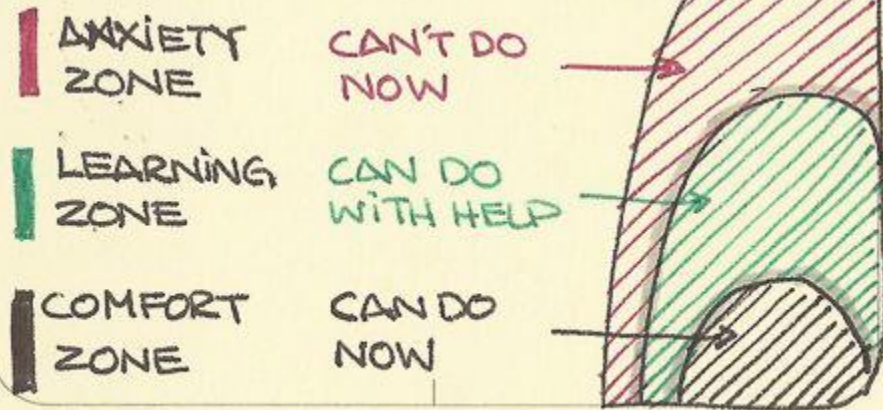


Jean Piaget

LEV
VYGOTSKY



“WHAT A CHILD CAN DO IN
COOPERATION TODAY, HE
CAN DO ALONE TOMORROW”



Infancy and Childhood

Attachment through adolescence



Attachment - the first language of survival

- ▶ An emotional tie with another person;
- ▶ shown in young children by their seeking closeness to the caregiver and showing distress in separation.



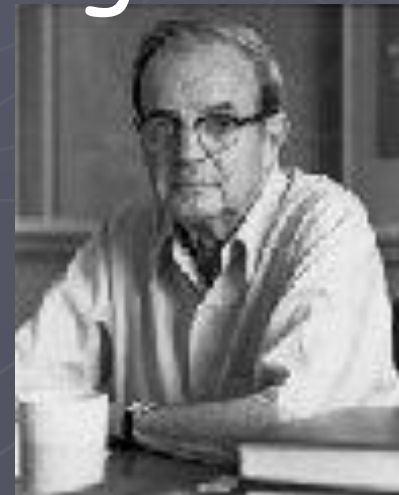
Factors of Attachment

- ▶ **Body Contact**
- ▶ **Familiarity**
- ▶ **Responsive Parenting**

Body Contact

- ▶ It was first assumed that infants became attached to those who satisfied their need for nourishment.

Then this guy came along.....



Harry Harlow and his



Discovered that monkeys preferred the soft body contact of a cloth mother, over the nourishment of a hard/wirily mother.



Harlow's Monkeys



Familiarity

- ▶ Attachments based on familiarity can be formed during critical periods.

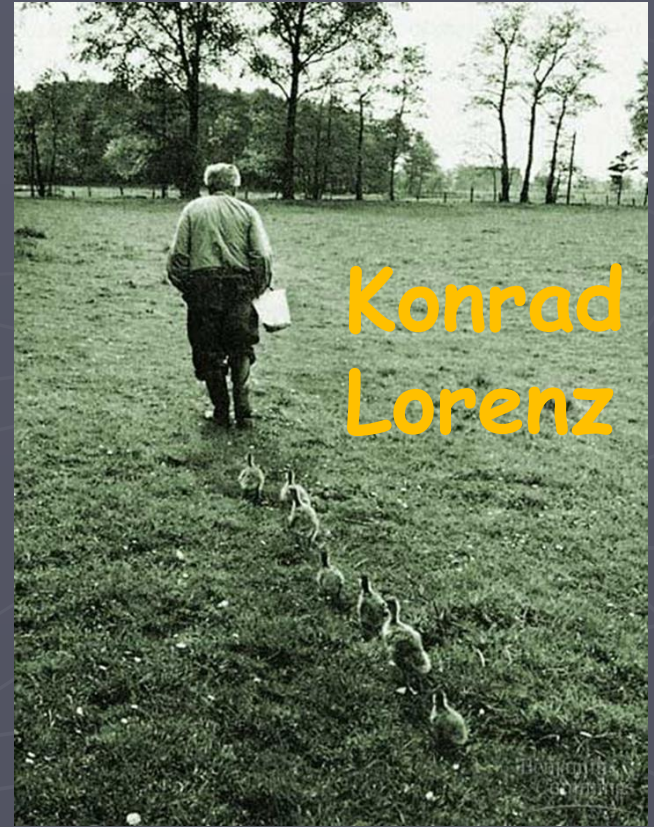
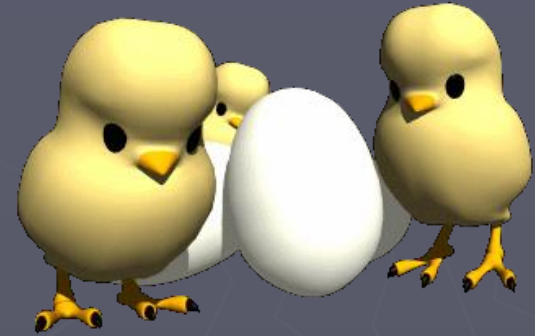
Critical Periods the optimal period shortly after birth when an organism's exposure to certain stimuli or experiences produce proper development.

Critical Period: The Semantics

- ▶ Critical period:
 - begins and ends abruptly
 - A period that once passed, a phenomenon will not appear
- ▶ Sensitive period:
 - begins and ends gradually
 - period of maximal sensitivity
- ▶ "Window of opportunity"

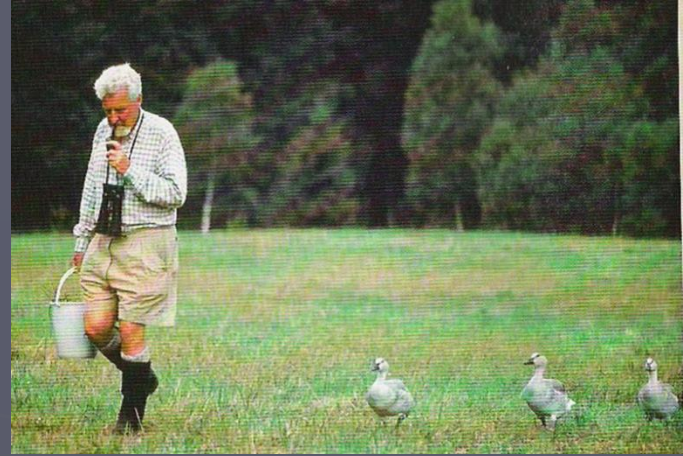
Imprinting

- ▶ The primary formation of social bonds in infant animals.
- ▶ Must occur during a critical period very early in life.
- ▶ Irreversible
- ▶ Mother-offspring bonding in animals is crucial to safety & development of the offspring



Konrad Lorenz

Ethologist



- Geese hatchlings follow the first thing they see that moves
- Lorenz ensured that he was the first moving organism seen by the hatchlings
- Hence, the geese hatchlings had imprinted on Lorenz
 - Wherever he went, the hatchlings followed

