Unit 13
COGNITIVE DEVELOPMENT: TOWARDS MENTAL REPRESENTATION AND SYMBOLIC THINKING

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Thought in The Second Year: Sensori-Motor Period

- Substage Five: from 12-18 months. The child now experiments--tries out different ways of doing things, he changes his actions to see changes in result. This makes it possible for the toddler to discover new ways of solving problems-- through trial and error.

- Substage Six: between 18 months-2 years.
  - Child able to work out the solution mentally.
The ability to mental representation of events, of being able to picture events to oneself, is the hallmark of this substage. Trial and error method of solving problems is not given up entirely, is in adulthood as well, but is not the only way of solving problems.

Being able to represent events mentally influences the child’s imitation. The child is now able to delay imitation.

The child’s understanding of cause and effect also improves during this sub stage.

Beginning of make-believe. Child is also able to think symbolically. Both of these involve mental representation.
Pre-Operational Period

- From 3rd year- 6 or 7 years of age.
- Knows names of most people she interacts with regularly
- May identify some colours and know their names
- Recognizes and names familiar objects
- Names parts of body and can say function of some of these
- Can make comparisons – tall/short; big/ small; thick/thin
- Make drawings and say what she has drawn
- Follows simple instructions
- Shows interest in playing with other children
- Curious
Thank You