

IDENTIFYING PIAGETIAN CONCEPTS

Identify the Piagetian concepts demonstrated in each scenario.

1. A young boy and his older brother are playing Monopoly. The older brother hands out the money. He tries to cheat his brother by giving him less money. The younger brother notices that his pile of money is smaller than his older brother's pile. He starts to complain when the older brother splits the younger brother's pile into two smaller piles. Now the younger brother is happy because he now believes that he has more money than his brother. His brother has one pile but he has two piles. Identify the phenomenon that allowed the younger child to be cheated by his older brother.
2. Two children are asked "What would you do if all the air was pumped out of this room?". Tommy gives the person asking the question a weird look and says "That's a stupid question-- it could never happen!". Jenny answers "Run out!". What would explain the differences in the two answers?
3. A child is on the phone talking to his grandma. He tells her about the art project he is working on in school. He picks up the picture and says "Look at my drawing! Isn't it pretty?" Identify the phenomenon being displayed by the child.
4. A child has been playing football with her older brothers and is pretty good at throwing a completed pass. Now her brothers attempt to teach her how to play basketball. She keeps throwing the basketball like she throws a football. She is unable to make a single basket. Identify what the child is attempting to do and identify what is necessary for mastery of this new skill.
5. A child watches her older siblings play with their toy trucks. She watches with enthusiasm until the trucks accidentally roll under the bed. When that happens she quickly loses interest and crawls away. Now that she is a little older she quickly crawls over to the bed and begins to look for the trucks under the bed. What would explain the difference in the child's behavior?