

According to David G. Myers (2005) while in the womb Alex's body was forming one-quarter million nerve cells per minute. As an infant Alex's cognition began to develop in what Piaget called the sensorimotor stage. Myers (2005) explains that the sensorimotor cognitive stage is experienced from birth to age two. As an infant Alex experienced the world through his senses and through actions. His caregiver explained that Alex liked to suck on a pacifier or his thumb and put everything in his mouth, like babies do.

Alex's caregivers at the Manchester Early Learning Center in North Manchester, Indiana often described him as "in his own world." His teacher suspects that he may have some cognitive development delays; however, she is not able to diagnose that sort of thing. Myers (2005) outlines Jean Piaget's stages of cognitive development and explains that the stage that Alex's age is in is the preoperational stage. This stage falls between the ages of two to six, in which children learn to use language, but lack logical reasoning. During my time spent with Alex I observed that he knows his colors and numbers, like most 3-year-old children. He speaks quietly and is not as verbal as his 3-year-old classmates. On Wednesdays, when Alex's class watches a thirty minute video, he sits still and quietly the entire 30 minutes. When asked questions about what is happening on the show or what he wonders is going to occur next Alex stares at the television and rarely provides a suggestion. The other children in his class find it hard to remain seated and make comments about the video, while Alex sits quietly. Alex displays egocentric thinking and does not like to share his Thomas the Tank Engine toys with anyone.

Alex also demonstrates assimilation; when he was wearing socks with horses on them one day I asked him what kind of animals were on his socks. He said cow, and

proceeded to moo. I explained that those animals were horses and they neigh. Later I asked him the same question and he had not yet accommodated his schema about the animals on his socks and told me that they were cows again. We replayed our previous conversation a few more times before he understood the difference between the two animals.