

CED 6413: Human Development and Growth
Laboratory 2: Piaget's Conservation Task
Phase 2 Interviews

Participant Number: C01

Gender: Female

Age: 4 years

Introduction. [After receiving the consent of the child's mother personally, I received the girl warmly with a smile into the office of the proprietor of the school, which was vacated for me for the task. I relaxed the girl by playing the game of blind and pick. I tried to pick a biro on the table with my eyes closed. I missed the biro and the child laughed at me. The child was also allowed to play the blind and pick game. With the child's consent and cooperation, we commenced the main laboratory task.

Experimenter. [Pointed at two half-filled glasses of water the same size.]

This glass is mine and this glass is yours. Which of us has more to drink or do we have the same amount to drink?

Child. My water is equal with your own.

Experimenter. Why? How do you know?

Child. They are the same. See, this one here [touched the level of water in one glass] and this one [touched water level of the other glass] is also here.

Experimenter. Ok. I have decided to change my glass.

[Poured water nearest me to the tall, thin glass.]

Now, who has more to drink, you or me, or do we have the same amount to drink?

Child. This water is more.

[Touched the tall thin glass.]

Experimenter. Why? How do you know?

Child. Because as you pour the water inside the glass it became more.

Experimenter. How do you know it is more?

Child. The water in this glass is small [pointed at the original glass] and the one in this glass [pointed at the thin glass] is tall in height and more.

Experimenter. Why again do you say it is more?

Child. It goes up more.

Experimenter. Help me pour the water back into the first glass.

[Child poured the water back into the first glass.]

Now who has more?

Child. Uncle, why did you pour it into this glass again? They are now the same.

Experimenter. Look at it again carefully. Who has more?

Child. They are the same.

Experimenter. Why? How do you know?

Child. Because you poured the same water in the two glasses.

Experimenter. Why did you say they are the same?

Child. [Looked absentmindedly out the window.]

Participant Number: C02

Gender: Female

Age: 5 ½ years

Introduction. [Permission was granted by her parents. The girl was called into a chair next to the experimenter. There was brief jisting to make the girl comfortable.]

Experimenter. I have something to share with you if you would like.

Child. Ok, I like it.

Experimenter. I have two glasses of water filled with liquid. You take one and let me have one. Now, who has more to drink, you or me? Or do we have the same amount to drink?

Child. It is the same.

Experimenter. Why? How is it so?

Child. It is the same because it carries same liquid, same size container, same person that pour it there. Same person brought the drink.

Experimenter. [Poured the water into a tall thin glass.]

I have decided to change glasses. I poured my water into this glass. Now, who has more to drink, you or me, or do we have the same amount to drink?

Child. Yes, the same because there was nothing added to the drinks, so it is the same liquid.

Experimenter. Why?

Child. They are the same liquid inside different water glasses. So it is the same, Sir.

Experimenter. [Poured the water into the tall, thin glass back into the original glass.]

Again, who has more to drink or is it the same?

Child. Is same liquid, Sir, but we keep on changing only the container for long.

Experimenter. [Poured the water back into the tall, thin glass.]

Who has more now, is it you or me?

Child. [Smiled, started scratching her head and looking around.]

Participant Number: C03

Gender: Male

Age: 6 years

Introduction. [After receiving consent of the child's father by a phone call, I received the boy warmly with a smile into the office room arranged for the task. I relaxed the child by playing the game of locate which hand has the paper. I folded a piece of paper in one of my hands (out of the

child's sight) and asked the child to choose which hand had the paper. I asked the child to also do the same for me to choose. With the child's consent and cooperation, we commenced the main laboratory task.]

Experimenter. [I pointed at two half-filled glasses of water of the same size.]

This glass is mine and this glass is yours. Which one of us has more to drink?

Child. [Observed for a few seconds.]

Experimenter. Or do we have the same amount to drink?

Child. They are the same.

Experimenter. Why? How do you know?

Child. They are the same. Look, their height is the same.

Experimenter. Ok. I have decided to change my class.

[Poured the water from the glass nearest me into the tall, thin glass.]

Now, who has more to drink, you or me, or do we have the same amount to drink?

Child. This one has more.

[Pointed to the tall thin glass.]

Experimenter. Why? How do you know?

Child. See, it is more.

[Pointed at the height of the water in the tall thin glass.]

Experimenter. How do you know it is more?

Child. The water in this one [touches taller glass] is longer and more than this one [points at the original glass.]

Experimenter. Ok. Please help me pour the water back into the first empty glass.

[Child poured water back into the first glass.]

Now, who has more?

Child. They look the same.

Experimenter. Look at it again carefully, who has more?

Child. Nobody has more.

Experimenter. Why? How do you know?

Child. Because they are equal.

Experimenter. Why do you say they are equal?

Child. Because they are the same level.