



The Art of Compromise

ALL QUOTES BY
JEAN PIAGET

“Play is the work of childhood.”

At Pisgah Collective, we have the privilege of guiding our students through much of their preoperational stage of development. The preoperational stage of development refers to the ages of 2-7 in Piaget’s theory of cognitive development. During this stage children learn to manipulate symbols, but do not yet engage with concrete logic. They operate intuitively as well as egocentrically, as they develop their language skills, memory and imagination.

The brain’s ‘goal’ at this stage is for the child to gain the capacity for symbolic thought. Symbolic thought means our brain’s capacity for mental representation. This capacity is easily taken for granted by adults, most of whom have no reason in their daily lives to consider brain development.

EVERYTHING during this stage is best seen as practice for when their brains are truly capable of symbolic thought, which enables them to move into the next stage of concrete, operational development. The operational stage of development is when our brains hone the ability to be logical and understand concrete ideas. It serves as a bridge to the next stage of abstract thought.

One of the most important ways we provide our students with this practice is by holding open spaces in which they can experience conflict, within themselves, with their environment, and of course, with other people. Young children often experience conflict within themselves related to being unable to do something on their own or an inability to express a need or desire.

Conflicts with their environment are also related to being unable to do or have something, as well as misusing or damaging something. Interpersonal conflicts are often at the forefront of our adult conception of conflicts, and while common, present some of the most valuable learning opportunities during this stage of development.

Only by finding themselves in conflict, can they begin to practice the art of compromise. Only by accumulating experiences of others’ needs and desires can they begin to understand themselves as an aspect of a whole.

“The self thus becomes aware of itself, at least in its practical action, and discovers itself as a cause among other causes and as an object subject to the same laws as other objects.”

“Each time one prematurely teaches a child something he could have discovered himself, that child is kept from inventing it and consequently from understanding it completely.”

Because we understand their developmental egocentrism, we are able to capitalize on these inevitable conflicts and discuss with our students why it is happening and what they can do about it. By not preventing these conflicts, which is often contrary to our adult impulses, we turn conflict into learning opportunities, thereby modeling compromise and giving our students chances to find their own compromises with one another.

“Before games are played in common, no rules in the proper sense can come into existence.”

“Children’s games constitute the most admirable social institutions.”

Without conflict, the opportunity to develop the skill of compromise is drastically hindered. It is of particular importance to give children in this preoperational stage of development time and space to practice compromise and resilience, because once they enter the next stage of concrete thinking, much of the elasticity from the previous stage begins to harden and these lessons become more difficult and less effective.

At Pisgah Collective, we enjoy modeling and facilitating the capacity for nuanced compromise by meeting the various individuals in our class where they are and reminding them of the interconnected nature of all of us. We know that this is a hard skill, even for many adults, and want our students to have the time and space to practice this skill in a supportive, positive environment so that as they grow older they have a strong basis in the art of compromise throughout their lives.

“Teaching means creating situations where structures can be discovered.”

5th Annual Stone Soup Celebration

It's time for our longest standing tradition, Stone Soup!

Who: Pisgah Collective students, staff, and their families!

What: Come together and celebrate with a shared meal, good company, and a storytelling of Stone Soup!

Why: Celebrate community!

When: Friday, November 19 3-6 p.m.

Where: The field in front of the barn!

Check out the [2020 virtual story](#) featuring PC students!

CLASSROOM HAPPENINGS



We have been enjoying this lovely Fall season at the barn! The students have been spending time in the garden taking care of our fall plants and enjoying the harvest of fall greens and herbs to taste! We have been enjoying yoga classes throughout this semester and practicing mindfulness and movement!



Oaki Discount

You all have access to a 25% discount on orders \$29+ for kids gear on: <https://oaki.com/> This company's products come highly recommended from many of our families! They make awesome full body suits along with winter gear and more! Use the code: **pisgahcollectivekids** at checkout for the discount.

Ask & Tell

We love to hear stories from our parents about what our children have to say about school and we know most parents would like to be able to get more info from their students about school. Please feel free to share or reach out either in person, via email, or through the Parent Page on the website with quick resources and also a Q & A submission form! This is a great place to suggest newsletter topics as well:

<https://www.pisgahcollective.com/parent-page>

FALL SONG

Do you see the leaves?
Colors are changing!
What does it mean?
FALL IS HERE!

Do you see the leaves?
Falling from the trees!
What does it mean?
FALL IS HERE!

Important Dates

- **DUE DATES: Spring 2022**
November 17:
 - Paperwork Packets
 - Afternoon Deposit(s)
- **5th Annual Stone Soup**
Friday, November 19 | **3-6 p.m.**
- **CLOSED: Thanksgiving Break**
November 22 -26
- **Last Day of Fall Semester**
Afternoons: November 18
Mornings: December 17
- **First Day of Spring Semester**
Mornings: January 10
Afternoons: January 24

Fall Payment #4 Due:
Wednesday, Nov 10
Fall Payment #5 Due:
Wednesday, Dec 8