



EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY PERKEMBANGAN PESERTA DIDIK

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ENGLISH LANGUAGE DEPARTMENT

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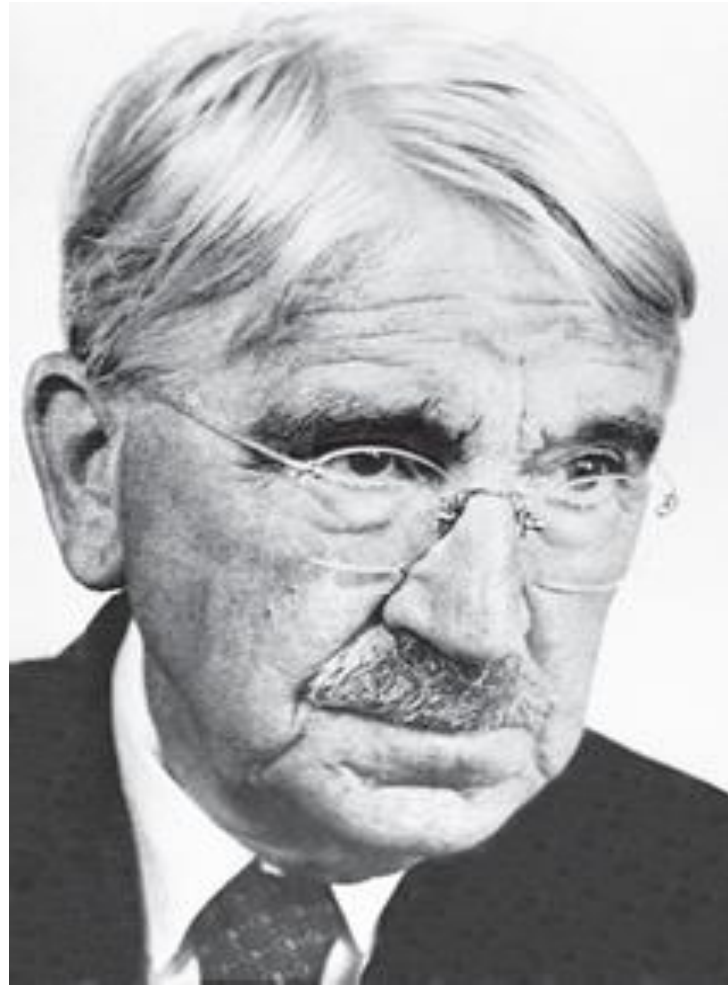
EXPLORING EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY

- Psychology is the scientific study of behavior and mental processes. **Educational psychology** is the branch of psychology that specializes in understanding teaching and learning in educational settings.
- The field of educational psychology was founded by several pioneers in psychology in the late nineteenth century. Three pioneers—William James, John Dewey, and E. L. Thorndike—stand out in the early history of educational psychology.



William James

- William James (1842–1910) gave a series of lectures called “Talks to Teachers” (James, 1899/1993) in which he discussed the applications of psychology to educating children. James argued that laboratory psychology experiments often can’t tell us how to effectively teach children. He emphasized the importance of observing teaching and learning in classrooms for improving education. One of his recommendations was to start lessons at a point just beyond the child’s level of knowledge and understanding to stretch the child’s mind.



John Dewey

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- **John Dewey** A second major figure in shaping the field of educational psychology was John Dewey (1859–1952), who became a driving force in the practical application of psychology. Dewey established the first major educational psychology laboratory in the United States, at the University of Chicago in 1894. Later, at Columbia University, he continued his innovative work. We owe many important ideas to John Dewey.



E. L. Thorndike

- **E. L. Thorndike** A third pioneer was E. L. Thorndike (1874–1949), who focused on assessment and measurement and promoted the scientific underpinnings of learning. Thorndike argued that one of schooling's most important tasks is to hone children's reasoning skills, and he excelled at doing exacting scientific studies of teaching and learning. Thorndike especially promoted the idea that educational psychology must have a scientific base and should focus strongly on measurement.