

**Chart of Meta-theories and their assumptions about Humans and their Development**

<b>META-THEORETICAL PERSPECTIVE</b>	<b>Maturational</b>	<b>Mechanistic</b>	<b>Organismic</b>	<b>Contextual</b>
<b>METAPHOR</b>	Plant	Machine	Caterpillar/ Butterfly	Tennis Game
<b>DESCRIBING:</b>				
<b>Unit of Analysis</b> (what we study)	Seeds: genes or biology	Cogs: elements, pieces, behaviors	Wholes: structures, organizations	Back and forth: person-context interactions
<b>Nature of the Person</b>	Passive	Passive	Active	Active
<b>Nature of the Environment</b>	Provides support and protection	Operates as the impetus for change	Needs to be understood	Is co-active with the developing person
<b>Course of Development</b> (type of change)	Continuous or Discontinuous	Continuous (increments)	Discontinuous (stages)	Continuous or Discontinuous
<b>EXPLAINING:</b>				
<b>Role of Person</b> (what is the person doing?)	Reacting	Reacting	Active & constructing	Acting as a partner in a system
<b>Role of Environment</b> (what is the environment doing?)	Providing nutriments	Controlling the individual	Providing affordances and opportunities	Acting as a partner in a system
<b>Cause of Development</b>	Genetic program	Environmental stimuli and rewards	Structural reorganization	Interaction of systems, transformation, emergence
<b>Potential for further Development</b>	Limited by genetics	Limited by environmental conditions	Progressive, unidirectional	Malleable, open system, multidirectional