

Metamemory Encyclopedia Article

Metamemory by Margaret Mahy

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Metamemory

High-level memory skill defined as the ability to remember to remember.

Memory development is one aspect of a child's cognitive development. Memory skills, such as grouping similar bits of information together, using acronyms or other mnemonic devices, are characteristics of older children, adolescents, and adults. (For example, a child learning the names of the planets in the solar system may use the initial letters of the words in this sentence to recall the planets: *My very educated mother just sold us nine pizzas* for *Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune, Pluto*.) Metamemory is the skill to remember that one needs to recall something for a specific purpose. This skill is one of the most advanced in the developing child's memory repertoire.

For Further Study

Books

Antaki, Charles and Alan Lewis, eds. *Mental Mirrors: Metacognition in Social Knowledge and Communication*. Beverly Hills: Sage, 1986.

Moely, Barbara E. *Teachers' Expectations for Memory and Metamemory Skills of Elementary School Children*. Washington, DC: National Institute of Education, 1985.

Sweeney, Dee. *Meet Your Mind*. Washington, DC: Office of Educational Research and Improvement, 1994.

Volk, Tyler. *Metapatterns across Space, Time, and Mind*. New York: Columbia University Press, 1995.