

Nursery-school Children's Response to Adult's Pretense.

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Abstract

This study examines how Nursery-school children respond to an adult's symbolic action and symbolic question on the procedures of Inoue (2010). I observed 18 month old children to 53 month old children's participant (N=53) response in the two situations: 1) showing pretense without explanation, 2) requesting of participants that to pretense tester's cue, by asking a symbol question in both situations. Symbolic action used three materials (a mixing bowl, a tissue case, and a banana) was shown.

The results show that late two - year olds (n=10) and early three - year olds (n=9) respond variously to results for each material. In contrast, late three - year olds (n=8) or early four - year olds (n=8) respond similiary to results for each material.

This study discusses a characteristic of each age groups. In particular, I consider two years of age is easy to be affected from the surroundings, and three years of age begin to be sensitive to the tester's intention behind the symbolic action.