

A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF TWO BEHAVIOURAL TECHNIQUES IN TESTING THE HEARING OF 2½- TO 3-YEAR OLD CHILDREN

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The objective of this study was to compare two behavioural techniques i.e. visual reinforcement audiometry (VRA) and play audiometry in order to determine the better test technique in testing the hearing of 2½ - to 3-year old children. Comparisons of these tests were by means of comparing the quantity of minimum response levels (MRL) obtained from the subjects and the time taken to complete both tests. 11 boys and 9 girls with normal hearing and no history of medical problems were selected to be the subjects of the study and were tested with both VRA and play audiometry on different days. Hypotheses were tested using independent-t, paired-t and chi-square tests. Results showed that MRL's obtained in both tests differed markedly. However, no significant difference could be observed in the time taken by subjects to complete the tests. Results of the study concluded that play audiometry is the better technique in testing the hearing of 2½ – to 3-year old children. This study is hoped to serve as a guide for audiologists in selecting an appropriate hearing test to be applied to this population.

Mohd Ridzuan, M. 2001. A Comparative Study of Two Behavioral Techniques in Testing the Hearing of 2½ - to 3-year old Children. Bachelor of Audiology Thesis. Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia.