

INTERROGATIVE SKILLS: COMPARISON BETWEEN NORMAL MALAY CHILDREN WITH MALAY AUTISTIC CHILDREN

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The purpose of the study was to determine the capabilities of Normal Malay Children (KKN) and Autistic Children (KKA) in interrogative skills and to compare performance between the two groups. This was a descriptive and cross-sectional study, which consists of 4 KKN and 4 KKA with the language age of 6 years old. The language age was determined by Malaysian Developmental Language Assessment Kit-Expressive level (MDLAK). Mental age of KKA was determined by Vineland Adaptive Behaviour Scale (VABS). Subjects were tested with the same question list. Subjects needed to answer the questions spontaneously. Cues were given to get the subjects to answer correctly. Based on the results, it was noted that the ability to answer the questions spontaneously for KKN was above 65% while the KKA percentage was lower than 30%. For the rest of the questions, cues were needed to get the subjects to answer them correctly. The most frequently-used cue was question cue for KKN. Both groups showed a low percentage in answering incorrectly or inappropriately. Subjects tend not to give answers for those questions even with cues. Based on the research results, cues given in verbal way gave no benefit to KKA in order to help them in answering questions. The high percentage in cue usage for KKA was visual cues, which included picture selection.

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