

THE DEVELOPMENT OF SYMBOLIC PLAY AMONG CHINESE PRESCHOOL CHILDREN

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This preliminary study aims to describe the levels of acquisition of symbolic play skills among English-speaking Chinese children using the Symbolic Play Test 2nd Edition by Lowe and Costello (1988). 33 children between the ages of 12 to 38 months were chosen as subjects for this study. Findings revealed that scores increase as the ages of children increase, which shows that children's play skills increase in sophistication as they grow older. A high positive and significant correlation existed between the ages and scores. Children will first perform self-directed acts at the age of 12 months before performing doll-directed acts at the age of 15 months. Single scheme combinations also occur first at the age of 15 months and would then be followed by unordered and ordered multi-scheme combinations at the age of 18 months. These two findings were similar to those done by previous researchers. Girls were found to have slightly better play skills when compared to boys of the same age but the differences were insignificant. This study also suggests that the Symbolic Play Test may be suitable to be used to test Chinese children who use English as their dominant language.

How, H.T. 2004. The Development of Symbolic Play among Chinese Preschool Children. Bachelor of Speech Science Thesis. Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia.