

SYMBOLIC PLAY SKILLS OF MALAY PRESCHOOL CHILDREN

Yazmin Ahmad Rusli

This study investigated Malay preschool children's symbolizing abilities in play. It aims to present sequences of developmental symbolic play skills using the non-verbal version of the recently developed Test of Pretend Play (ToPP). 20 normally developing children ranging in age from 12 – 39 months were recruited to participate in this research. Results revealed that when effects of gender difference was partialled out, onset of the general developmental trends proceeded from (i) presymbolic acts; occurring before 12 months, (ii) single scheme acts involving self (at 12 months), (iii) single scheme acts involving another (at 15 months), (iv) single scheme combinations, which includes the ability to refer, substitute and attribute one object or entity to another (at 27 months), (v) multi-scheme combinations of script play (at 36 months) and finally (vi) planned multi-scheme combinations (at 39 months). Girls generally revealed better performance than boys, possibly due to the choice of toys used in ToPP. Mean scores for all age groups are within the acceptable standardized score range as in ToPP, suggesting the validity of its application in speech therapy clinical setting.

Ahmad Rusli, Y. 2002. Symbolic Play Skills of Malay Preschool Children. Bachelor of Speech Science Thesis. Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia.