

Experiments in Deaf Cognition

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Introduction

- Phonology - Use of sound to encode meaning in a spoken language
- Functional Equivalence Hypothesis - Deaf children's phonological development is qualitatively similar, albeit quantitatively delayed, in comparison to hearing children.

RHYME TEST

- To test the subject's ability to identify a rhyming word with varying distracters
- The cues were pictorial and instructions were given to arrive at the correct word

RHYME TEST: Results

Subject	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Age	10	8	12	12	11	11	12	13	14	14	14
Correct /Total	2/3	4/4	3/3	5/5	2/7	1/8	3/8	8/8	3/8	8/8	8/8
% Correct	66.7	100	100	100	28.6	12.5	37.5	100	37.5	100	100

Average: 71.2

Analysis

- There is indeed a strong indication of a phonological representation of words
- Possible reason could be that since a comprehensive teaching methodology is employed with emphasis on picking up word sounds through lip movements, a phonological representation is created
- Younger students with a limited vocabulary performed poorly even if one of the words was written

Theory of Mind Test-1

(Unexpected Location Test)

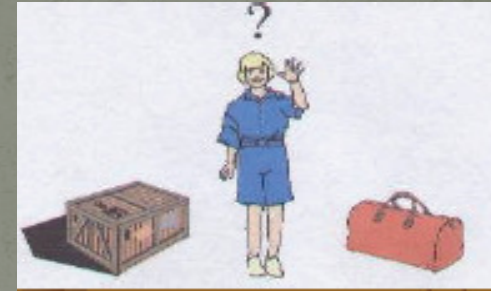
Scene 1: Maxi puts his chocolate in the cupboard



Scene 2: Later, Mum moves it to the fridge



1. “Where will the boy look for his chocolate?”
1. “Where did the boy keep the chocolate?”
2. “Where did his mother keep the chocolate?”



1. “Where will Manu look for his chocolate?”
 1. “Where did Manu keep the chocolate?”
 2. “Where did Tanu keep the chocolate?”

Analysis

- 3/11 could answer correctly.
- The children had difficulty in understanding because a possible communication gap.
- Acting out the experiments did help in aiding sometimes.
- Weaving a vivid story with relatable characters and objects was most successful but the results were unreliable as the stories were give-away.

Theory of Mind Test-2 (False-Belief Test)

- Showed a lock inside a soap cover. They were shown that there is a lock but not a soap inside.
- Asked what would an independent observer say was in the soap cover
- 7/11 students answered correctly

Theory of Mind Test-3

Emotion Recognition Test

- Asked what would be the emotion (happy or sad) of a boy if he were to go to a movie.
- Further asked about his emotion if he found the cinema was closed.
- 9/11 answered correctly

Conclusion

- The communication gap proved a hindrance making few tests unsuccessful.
- There appears to be an impaired theory of mind but the experiment is not yet conclusive.