

Theory of mind, birth order, and siblings among preschool children.

ABSTRACT

This research investigated whether the number of siblings in the family facilitates the development of theory of mind (ToM) in preschool children. A battery of tests was administered to measure the ToM and verbal ability of one hundred and sixty three 3.6 to 5.6 year-old children. No significant difference was found between ToM and siblings. In contrast, a significant difference was found between ToM and birth order. Additionally, on undertaking a hierarchical multiple regression analysis, it was found that, over and above age and verbal ability, a significant contribution for birth order to ToM development was observed.

Keyword: False belief; Theory of mind; Siblings; Preschool children.