

Psy 353 Learning and the Young Child

Schwartz

Activity in Cognitive Concept Formation

Instructions:

For this activity, you will need three preschool-aged children (ages 3-4) and three third-grade children (ages 8-9 years old). You are to sit down with each child *individually* and test each child with each of the seven sets of the stimuli on this page. In the presence of each stimuli set, you will ask 2 questions.

Once you have obtained the “data” on your six children, you are to analyze your samples for developmental differences. Your analysis should contain a chart of the responses you were given, and an interpretive discussion of the differences.

Pay attention to elements like: egocentricity, decentration, attention, class inclusion, collections, classification, complementary relations, etc. Make certain to read the relevant chapters in Bjorklund *before* you do your observation.

Finally, make certain your report is well structured, double-space type-written and contains, as an appendix, your actual data. And, most of all, *have fun!* You should find it a fascinating experience.

1. Materials: 4 blue glass marbles, 2 red glass marbles

You ask:

1. “Are there more glass marbles or more blue marbles?”
2. “Are there more blue marbles or more red marbles?”

2. Materials: 6 red plastic poker chips, 3 blue plastic poker chips

You ask:

1. “Are there more plastic circles or more red circles?”
2. “Are there more blue circles or more red circles?”

3. Materials: 5 red plastic toothpicks, 3 red wooden toothpicks

You ask:

1. “Are there more red toothpicks or more plastic toothpicks?”
2. “Are there more wooden toothpicks or more plastic toothpicks?”

4. Materials: 4 large orange paper stars and 2 small paper stars

You ask:

1. “Are there more orange stars or more large stars?”
2. “Are there more large stars or more small stars?”

5. Materials: 8 small blue blocks, 4 same size white blocks

You ask:

1. "Are there more small blocks or more blue blocks?"
2. "Are there more blue blocks or more white blocks?"

6. Materials: 6 red construction paper triangles, 3 red construction paper squares

You ask:

1. "Are there more red pieces or more triangles?"
2. "Are there more triangles or more squares?"

7. Materials: 4 blue paper circles, 2 yellow same size paper circles

You ask:

1. "Are there more circles or more blue pieces?"
2. "Are there more blue circles or more yellow circles?"

A chart of your results may look something like this:

Problem	Preschool Child			Third Grade Child		
	1	2	3	1	2	3

Marbles

- a.
- b.

Poker Chips

- a.
- b.

Toothpicks

- a.
- b.

Stars

- a.
- b.

Blocks

- a.
- b.

Red Shapes

- a.
- b.

Circles

- a.
- b.

#a questions answered correctly: pre. child _____ % _____ 3rd gd. child _____ % _____

#b questions answered correctly: pre. child _____ % _____ 3rd gd. child _____ % _____

