

(49) A comparison between sensorimotor and cognitive performance of Palestinian and Israeli Children

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Sensorimotor and cognitive performance of children is fundamental functional components both for determining school readiness and for predicting scholastic success. It is important to assess children's sensorimotor and cognitive performance in order to determine their abilities and disabilities, and pinpoint more specific needs.

There are significant differences in child development among different cultures. While the existing norms for sensorimotor and cognitive functional performance are based on American children, there are no established age norms for Israeli children or for Palestinian children. The performance levels of both these groups have not been assessed yet.

On the basis of previous studies, it has been hypothesized that differences in sensorimotor and cognitive performance will be found among the three culture groups and the three ages of the participants of this study.

Two hundred sixty five children in three different age group and three different cultures were included. Differences in mean scores between the cultural groups and between the age groups have been found. It has also been found that these differences are subject to some variations across the different tests / subtests.

A factor analysis has been performed on the different tests. Four factors have been identified, indicating that these tests can be used as a battery for clinical purposes in an evaluation procedure of learning disabled children.

A clinical recommendation of this project might be the type of special needs of Palestinian children and the kind of services to provide.