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 you 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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Problem</th>
<th>Preschool Child</th>
<th>Third Grade Child</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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_____ %_____
