The 3D-Language Acquisition Test and the Mentally Retarded *

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The 3D-LAT was administered to 45 moderately retarded children, to study their performance on it and to make inferences regarding the language behaviour of retarded children.

The outstanding fact that emerged was that the children performed much below their age level in spite of the fact that they were matched with respect to their mental ages to the normal group. This emphasizes the fact that using MA to predict the language level of the child is an erroneous notion and that independent language assessment is a must.

This study also highlights the great variability of performance on the language test even when chronological age and mental age are controlled. This indicates that factors other than mental age influence level of language development. These factors need to be empirically studied as these can be artificially manipulated in the clinical and therapeutic situation to aid language growth.

Since there were time constraints on this study, the population studied was necessarily small. The results seen here should be therefore confirmed by studying a much larger population.