

The 3D-Language Acquisition Test and the Hard-of-Hearing *

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A brief summary of the present study and the conclusions drawn are given below :

A group of twenty-eight young, hard-of-hearing children in the age range of 18 months to 36 months were studied for their performance on the "3D-Language Acquisition Test". Six age groups, with an interval of three months between each, were considered within the age range mentioned above. Five children were included as subjects in the age groups, I, III, IV, V and VI. In Group II, only three subjects could be obtained. Language development was studied under three dimensions—reception, expression and cognition. The verbal and non-verbal modes of communication (the later actually including non-verbal and verbal language) were considered. Information was collected from the parents or a close associate. The results of the study were compared

with norms obtained for 90 normal children on the same test. Performance of subjects, on the verbal scale as against the non-verbal scale, were compared too. These results are mentioned here briefly.

In the case of normals, a linear relation was seen between average age and mean scores along all the three dimensions of reception, expression and cognition. In the present study, a definite delay in overall language acquisition by the hard-of-hearing subjects was seen. On the verbal scale, a wide gap was seen in between the performance of subjects and of normals on the test items. The subjects performed comparatively better on the cognitive items. On the non-verbal scale, the wide gap referred to above was found to be considerably reduced. In addition, a good correlation was seen in all the three dimensions in the positive direction, between average age and average non-verbal scores for the entire group.

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These findings stress the need for further studies on language development—verbal and non-verbal—of hard-of-hearing children.