

The Development of Perspective Taking and Theory of Mind in Preschool Children

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Perspective taking and theory of mind are fundamental social-cognitive skills that have been linked to social relationships, moral development, and developmental disorders. Theoretically, perspective taking and theory of mind tasks tap into similar processes and should be highly related, yet, surprisingly, there is very little research on the relationship between perspective taking tasks and theory of mind tasks. In our talk, we report on a number of studies that examined the relationship between a variety of perspective taking and theory of mind tasks in preschool children, using both cross-sectional and longitudinal designs. We also investigated how verbal ability and executive function relate to perspective taking and theory of mind.