

## Early Understanding of Referential Intent in Toddlers and Young Children: From the Clues of Vocal and Facial Expression

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The purpose of the studies were to examine the early understanding others' intention in young children in Taiwan. In the study 1, a referential intent task used the clues of vocal and facial expression by an experimenter for examining whether 24-months-olds children can make difference between intentional and accidental conditions while observing the experimenter's demonstration. Results showed that young children aged 24 months can differentiate the intentional and accidental clues. However, their performances were constrained by the right-hand preference. In the study 2, a revised referential intent task which decreases the effect of handedness preference used to investigate whether 20-month-olds toddlers and 30-month-olds young children can understand others' referential intent. Results revealed that toddlers aged 20 months did not pass the task demand while young children with 30 months not only make differentiation between intentional and accidental conditions, but their performances are not influenced by the handedness preference.

It is inappropriate to indicate that results of the studies showed that early referential intent development in Taiwanese children lagged behind the American children. At least four kinds of issues in methodology are needed to explore first before any conclusion. First, the handedness preference was the important confounding factor to influence the effect of early intention reading. Second, in the studies, we only gave our subjects a chance to choose which box they want and then open the same one, subjects did not have a chance to touch first in advance and then choose and open the other one if possible. Third, after observing experimenter's demonstration, it is possible that this kind of manipulation maximizes the child's attention to the box itself instead of something inside the box. Forth, in the study, finding of vocal cues were via only questionnaires, other measures like semi-structure observation paradigm are needed to explore in depth in the future research.

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