

Thesis Title       , Effects of Symbolic Play on Conservation  
                          Concepts of Length, Mass and Liquid Quantity

Name                   Miss Ketsara   Kumpoomprasert

Thesis Advisor       Assistant Professor Penpilai Rithakananone, Ph.D.

Department           Psychology

Academic Year        1986

### ABSTRACT

The purpose of this research was to study the effects of symbolic play on conservation concepts of length, mass and liquid quantity. The hypothesis was that symbolic play would increase conservation concepts. Seventy children from Sangarun kindergarten were individually tested for three conservation tests. All of them were found to be the nonconservers. Forty children : twenty boys and twenty girls were randomly drawn from all the nonconservers and randomly assigned into experimental and controlled groups. Each group consisted of twenty subjects : ten boys and ten girls. The two groups were not different in their conservation test scores. The two groups were given five play sessions, lasting 15 minutes each, extending over 5 days. The experimental group was given the symbolic play and the controlled group was given the play sessions with puzzles, sketchy drawing tasks, drawing tasks, paper folding tasks and block designs. Two days after the play sessions, each subject in both experimental and controlled groups was given three conservation tests again by using

the conservation problems paralleled to the problems in the pretest. The results showed that

1. The experimental group's conservation concepts after the symbolic play were found to be better than before the symbolic play.

2. After the symbolic play, the experimental group's conservation concepts were found to be better than the controlled group.