

Thesis Title An Assessment of the Auditory Discrimination Ability in Functional Articulation Disorder Children Aged 3 Years to 6 Years 11 Months

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study was to assess the auditory discrimination ability in functional articulation disorder children aged 3 to 6 years 11 months by utilizing a picture type test. Subjects were 120 normal children and 77 functional articulation disorder children selected from speech clinics in 2 hospitals and 10 schools in Bangkok. The subjects were divided into 4 age groups, with 1 year interval in each age group. The tests used in this study were the Intelligent Test of Illingworth, the articulation test developed by Boonyathitisuk and Kiatpanya, and the picture type auditory discrimination test. The results indicated that the auditory discrimination ability increased with the increasing age of all subjects.

There were significant differences in auditory discrimination ability of normal children at the age of 3 years and 4 years 11 months but not of normal children aged 4 years and 6 years 11 months. Significant differences were found between functional articulation disorder children aged 3 years and 5 years 11 months. However, significant differences were not found between functional articulation disorder children at the age of 5 years and 6 years 11 months. The normal children were found to have significantly better sound discrimination ability than the functional articulation disorder children. The auditory discrimination ability of functional articulation disorder children aged 3 years to 6 years 11 months was not, however, significantly related to the number of articulation defects. Furthermore, there were no significant differences in auditory discrimination ability between normal boys and girls at the age of 3 years and 6 years 11 months. Significant differences were found between boys and girls of functional articulation disorder groups aged 3 years and 4 years 11 months but no significant differences were found between boys and girls of functional articulation disorder groups aged 5 years and 6 years 11 months.