

The Developmental Nature of Whisper in Children

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This study was conducted to learn as to how early children start whispering. It was expected that, there were no difference between males and females in this behavior. The responses from children were analysed together. The information from mothers and teachers on this behavior are presented separately and discussed.

Among 350 children, 315 children (90%) could come out with whispering behavior. Another 17 children (4.9%) needed experimenter intervention to exhibit the behavior whisper. But another 18 children (5.1%) did not come out with whispering behavior even after experimenter's intervention.

From the findings of the present study, it can be inferred that, most children by the age of 3 years have the ability to whisper functionally.

The experiment further continued the study to collect more information about whispering behavior of children.

Out of sixtyeight mothers of children age 1 1/2 years to 4 years, 34 mothers were interviewed. Half of them reported that their children started using whispering at the age of 2 1/2 years. However, 16 mothers (24.3%) reported that children started showing whispering behavior at the age of 2 years itself. Another 16 mothers (25%) reported that their children started showing whispering behavior at the age of 3 1/2 years.

Most of the mothers reported that the age at which children showed whispering behavior was at about 2 1/2 years. Most children below 3 years of age have shown this behavior. However, two of mothers informed that their children were able to whisper at the age of 18 months itself.

Teachers of lower and upper kindergarten reported that children in lower kindergarten itself start using the whispering behavior in the classroom. However, they whisper more outside the classroom than inside, comparatively.

In the light of the findings the hypotheses that "The behavior whisper appears in children as early as at the age of 3 years" can be accepted.

Similarly, the hypothesis that "Mothers of children younger than 3 years of age, will be aware of their children's whispering behavior, as partners in communications in communicating with them in specific instances" is also accepted.

It is one's clinical experience that the language disabled children do not exhibit this behavior. It would be interesting to see how late this behavior would appear in the language delayed children and what relation it has to the development of other aspects of language. However, much more observation of this behavior is needed to establish the appearance of this behavior chronologically along with other linguistic aspects.

Results show that most of the children could whisper special communication by the age of 3 years.

Mothers reported that, the children started whispering around the age of 2.6 months. This shows children could acquire whispering around this age.

The following hypothesis that proposed were accepted

1. The behavior whisper appears in children as early as at the age of 3 years.
2. Mothers of children younger than 3 years of age will be aware of their children's whispering behavior, as partners in communications, in communicating with them in specific instances.