Oral Form Discrimination and Alternate Articulatory Motion Rate in the Cerebral Palsied

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The present investigation was undertaken in light of the continuing search and need for answers regarding the possible relationship between oral sensory-motor efficiency and speech proficiency. This study sought to explore the oral sensory and motor abilities of 35 subjects (20 normals and 15 cerebral palsied) in the age of 4-12 years.

The subjects were tested on two tasks: Oral form discrimination test (Ringel, 1968) and Lingual alternate articulatory motion rate (Darley, Aronson and Brown, 1975; Winitz, 1969; McNutt, 1977).

The OFD test consisted of 32 stimulus pairs of 8 plastic forms belonging to 4 geometric categories. When the pairs of stimuli were presented successively in the mouth, the subjects were required to indicate whether the two forms were "same" or "different". The correct responses were scored.

The alternate articulatory motion rate (AAMR) test required the subject to repeat rapidly the trisyllabic combination /b d g/ for 5 seconds durations of 3 breath groups. The averaged number of syllables repeated for 5 seconds in each of the 3 breath groups recorded were subjected to statistical analysis.

The findings of the study were as follows :

1. There is a significant difference between the normal subjects and cerebral palsied subjects performance on the OFD task. The normals were superior to the cerebral palsied subjects in terms of OFD ability.
2. ON the AAMR task, depressed performance in lingual motor skills was observed in the cerebral palsied group.
3. Performance on one experimental task did not correlate significantly with performance on the other task for both the groups.