

## Abstract

Theory-of-mind refers to one's understanding of others' mental states including desire, emotion, knowledge and belief. Young children commonly start to acquire these abilities at the preschool age. Language has been shown to correlate with theory-of-mind in various previous studies. However, these studies failed to reveal the causal direction between the two constructs as they were typically done with children aged 3 or above, when they already were quite competent in the two constructs (Cheung, n.d.). In the current longitudinal study, 167 children's theory-of-mind and linguistic abilities will be tested 3 times from 16 months to 3 years old by different tasks in order to understand early theory-of-mind development and the developmental relationship between language and theory of mind. Result showed that early language predicts later theory-of-mind and the two abilities develop continuously.