

Symbolic Play Test in Assessing Children's Early Language Skills

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Introduction

- Symbolic Play Test Second Edition (1988)
- Authors:
 1. Marianne Lowe, PhD
 2. Anthony J. Costello, MD
- Children ranging from 1 to 3 years old
- 4 sets of miniature toys
- Free play

Purpose

1. To explore the early concept formation and symbolization, which precedes and develops alongside receptive and expressive verbal language
2. to know the level of a child's non-verbal symbolic thinking, which is independent of verbal comprehension and expression
3. Not intend to replace another developmental test
4. Can form the basis of remedial action and advice to the parents

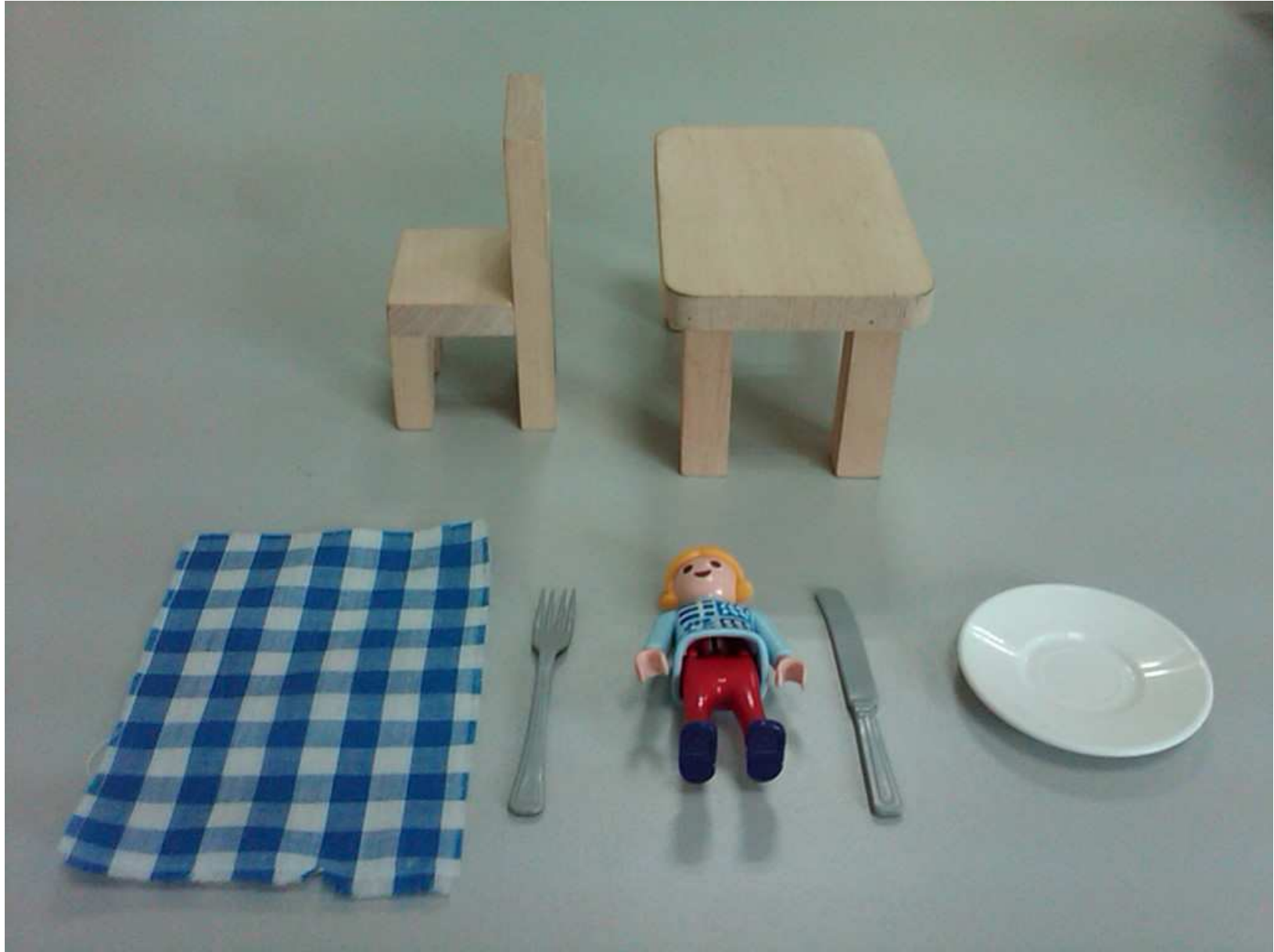
Test Description

- Spontaneous non-verbal play activity in structured situation
- Test duration is short (10-15 minutes)
- Simple to administer
- Independent of verbal comprehension and expression
- Objective scoring system

Administration









Administration

- Free play
- Keep situation natural
- Draw attention to neglected toy
- No time limit
- Stop when child has indicated that he has finished; restless or bored

Scoring

- [SPT form1.pdf](#)
- [SPT form2.pdf](#)

Video Clips

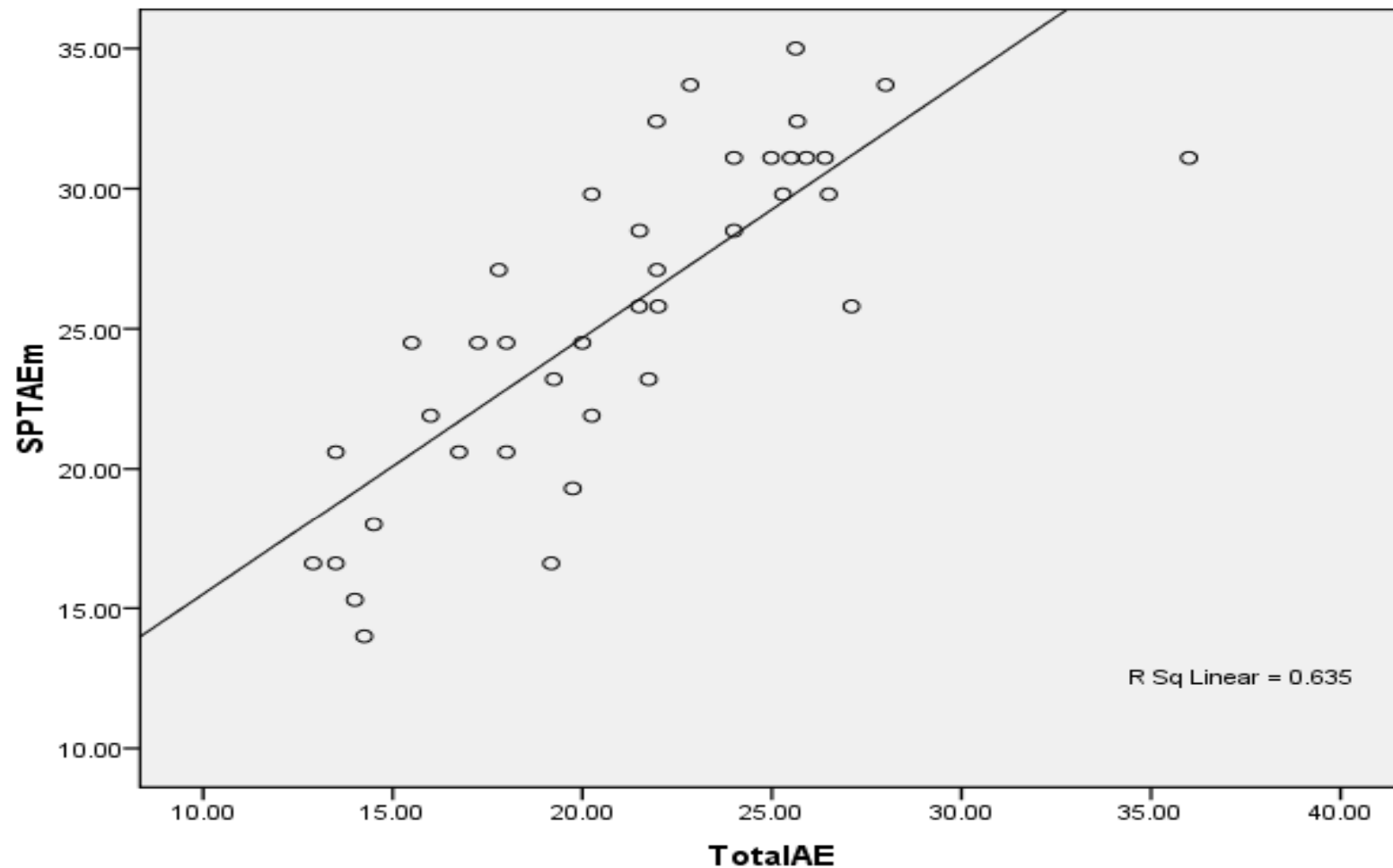




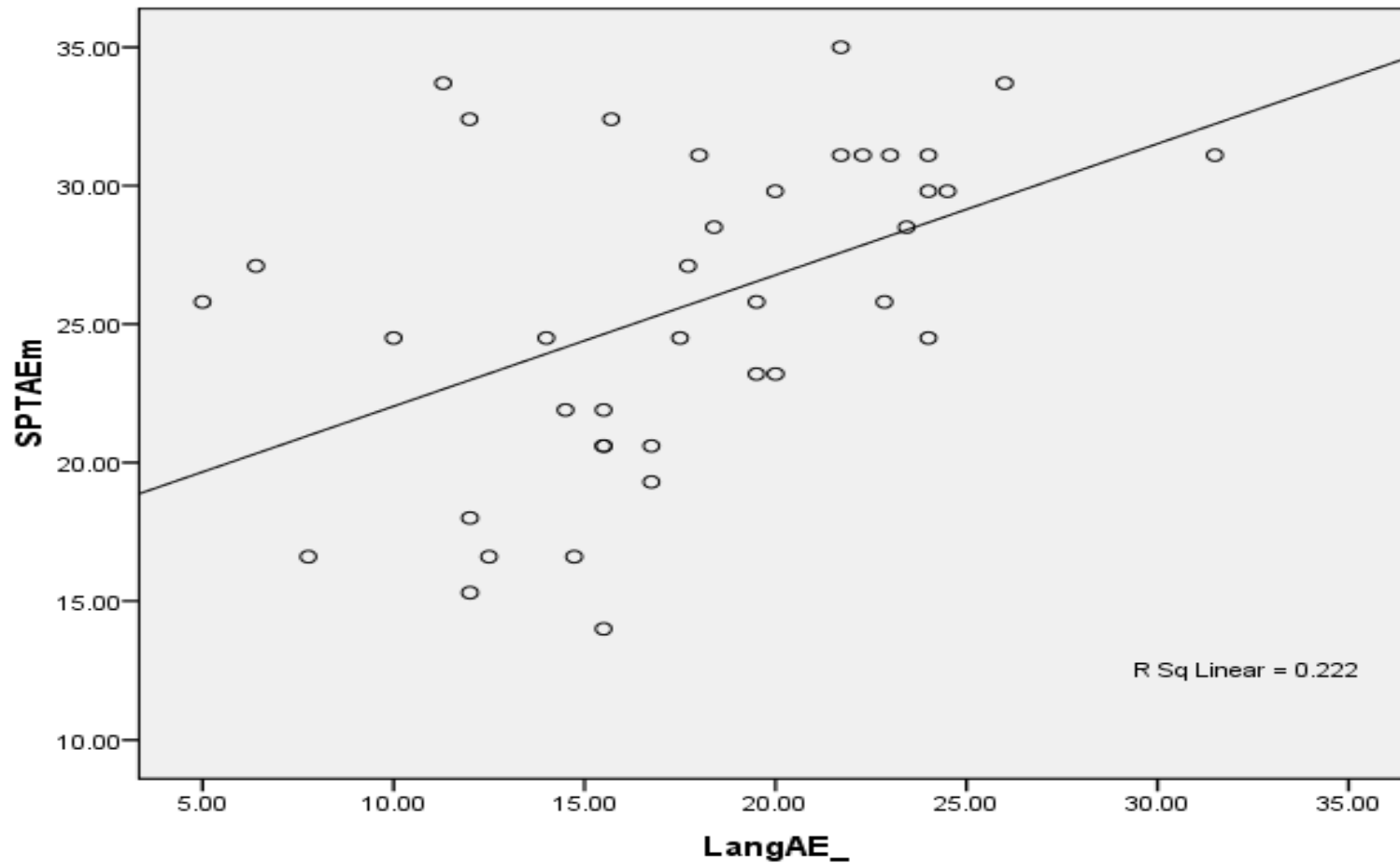




Research Findings of: Cross-Cultural Validation of Symbolic Play Test and Inter-Rater Agreement between Speech-Language Therapist and Nurses



There was a significant correlation between results of SPT and general quotient of GMDS-ER. Intraclass coefficient was 0.520, 95% CI 0.251 to 0.715 ($p = < 0.001$). $N=39$



Correlation between the results of SPT and the language component of GMDS-ER showed intraclass coefficient of -0.010, 95% CI -0.318 to 0.302 ($p = 0.524$). $N=39$

Conclusion

- In settings with poor resources, SPT can be an easy-to-use tool for assessing young children's early concept formation and symbolization ability; as well as to identify those at risk of developmental delay.

References

1. Marianne Lowe, Anthony J. Costello, GL Assessment . Symbolic Play Test – Second Edition. GL Assessment Limited- The Chiswick Centre, United Kingdom; 1988.
2. Ruth Griffiths, Michael Huntley, Association for Research in Infant and Child Development. Griffiths Mental Development Scales – Extended Revised. Hogrefe – The Test Agency, United Kingdom; 2004.

THANK YOU