



Strabismus-related prejudice in 5-6 year-old children

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Background

- Individuals with conspicuous strabismus are perceived more negatively
- Lead to social alienation and negative psychosocial development



Aim

- Explore young children's perception of peers with noticeable exotropia



Subjects

- 128 children attending kindergartens
- 43 5-year-old, 85 6-year-old
- M=64, F=64
- Interview in classroom



Procedures

- Pick a toy
- 'Which picture do you like better?'
- 'Point to the one you like better'
- 'Which person would you share your toy with?'



Pictures

- Digitally created
- 4 pairs of images
- Extropia - more common than esotropa

Pictures





Results

Table 1 Distribution of participants according to age and gender

Age (years)	Gender	
	Male	Female
5	25	20
6	39	44



Results

- 2 omitted: a girl refused to choose a face and would give the toys to both; a boy would not give a toy to any



Results

Table 2 Distribution of choices in percentage

Task	Orthotropic faces (95% CL)	Exotropic faces (95% CL)
Facial preference	62.7 (58.4 to 67.0)	37.3 (33.0 to 41.6)
Toy sharing	60.9 (56.5 to 65.3)	39.1 (34.7 to 43.5)
Total	61.8 (58.7 to 64.9)	38.2 (35.1 to 41.3)

95% CL, 95% confidence limits.



Discussion

- Young children show negative attitudes towards strabismus
- Linked with negative social interactions
- Toy-sharing: a form of social alienation
- Negative psychosocial development
- Early intervention to correct ocular misalignment