The Ability of Children with Mild Learning Disabilities to Encode Emotions through Facial Expressions

Engl. transl.: The Ability of Children with Mild Learning Disabilities to Encode Emotions through Facial Expressions

# Keywords

* learning difficulties
* facial expressions
* emotions
* learning difficulties, multimodal
* neuroscience.

# Details

## Year

2011

## DOI

DOI:10.1007/978-3-642-18184-9\_34

## Issued

2011

## Language

English

## Start Page

## End Page

## Editors

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## Type

Book chapter

## Book title

Lecture Notes In Artificial Intelligence: Toward Autonomous, Adaptive, and Context-Aware Multimodal Interfaces. Theoretical and Practical Issues

## Publisher

Springer-Verlag

## Sample

Data collected at Cyprus Neuroscience and Technology Institute

## Implications For Parents About

## Implications For Educators About

## Implications For Policy Makers About

## Other PolicyMaker Implication

Opportunities of the use of technology in the classroom

## Implications For Stakeholders About

* Researchers
* Industry
* Healthcare

# Abstract

Children with limitations in their abilities to encode and decode emotions through corresponding facial expressions may be excluded from social and educational processes. Previous research has demonstrated that children with learning difficulties may suffer differentially in their ability to recognize and denominate facial expressions that correspond to the basic emotional states. This study evaluates the ability of children with mild learning difficulties to produce seven basic facial expressions (happiness, sadness, anger, afraid, disgusted, confidence, and surprise) in response to verbal commands. The evaluation was based on a subject’s ability to communicate an emotional state correctly to his/her peers. The results show that their ability to produce a facial expression was affected in different degrees and that there exist correlations between the ability to perform certain facial expressions.

# Outcome

The study has shown that children with mild learning difficulties suffer in their ability to produce facial expressions that correspond to the six basic emotions and even more the expression “Confident.” Future studies may address underlying neurophysiological and neuro-chemical factors as well as focus on options for inter- vention and design of tailored-made curricula for children with such difficulties.