Selecting shapes – how children identify familiar shapes in two different educational settings.

Summary: To investigate the geometric competencies of children from 4 to 6 years old in two different educational settings – England and Germany – 80 children were given geometric tasks via clinical interviews. The children were interviewed at the beginning and at the end of one school year. In this paper, the results of one task – the selecting shapes task – are illustrated with the focus on children’s conceptualisation of geometric shapes as well as their reasoning why certain figures were chosen as representatives of a geometric shape and why others were not.

Classification: G21

Keywords: concept formation; geometric shapes; preschool; clinical interviews