

Alant, E. (1984). *The development of a procedure for analyzing communication of preschool children*. Unpublished doctoral dissertation, University of Pretoria, Pretoria, South Africa. I. C. Uys & H. C. Marais (Advisors): 292 pages of text, 398 references, 2 appendices, 77 tables, and 19 figures.

This is an exploratory study aiming to develop a procedure for analyzing communication in pre-school children. Communication skills are investigated in two contexts: representation (listening and observation) and conversation (interaction) situations. Both these situations are analyzed as they are regarded as important indicators of communication skills necessary for learning in the school environment. Thirty-eight Afrikaans speaking children were interviewed. These interviews were recorded on video tape. Analysis of the tapes (verbal and nonverbal) was undertaken by the experimenter and an independent observer. Extensive quantitative and qualitative analyses were conducted on the data and the results were correlated with school readiness test results. The findings of the study confirmed the necessity of including both the situations in the diagnostic procedure. There were also indications of associations between the school readiness test results and the above procedure. Findings can, however, only be interpreted as tentative on account of the small sample used in the study. The last section of the dissertation deals with an evaluation of the study and further implications for research.