

**PR280**

**Categorical Perception of Japanese geminate  
consonant /Q/ in children: its developmental  
relations with reading its kana letter**

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This study investigates the development of  
categorical perception of geminate consonant/Q/ in  
relation to the reading ability in children.

[TAB]Subject: Normal 99 children aged from five  
to seven.

Task 1. Categorical perception task; the duration  
of consonant closure in VCV environment are  
varied from 50ms to 260ms. The subjects are asked  
whether they perceived /Q/ sound or not in each  
stimuli.

Task 2. Word selection task; written words  
including Kana letter /Q/ are used. The subjects  
select the correct words matching with the picture.

Result 1. The judgment pattern of 7-year-old  
group resemble that of adults.

Result 2. If children judge the sounds correctly,  
they can read the Kana word.

It may suggest that categorical perception is one  
of the important measures of phonological  
awareness, and children have various ways to  
progress their phonological awareness.