

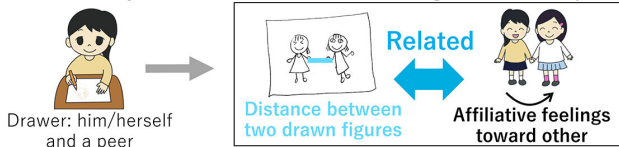
Abstract

Identifying a child's affiliative feelings toward peers is important in developmental psychology since such feelings increase understanding of how relationships are established. Unfortunately, conventional measurements suffer from such problems as the time required for preparation and excessive eagerness from children who want to satisfy their perceived impressions. **We investigated whether children's affiliative feelings toward a peer can be measured by a picture-drawing task, which can be easily conducted without disclosing its purpose.** In this task, 3- to 6-year-olds drew themselves and a peer on a drawing paper. The distances between the two closest points along the horizontal axis were significantly related to affiliative feelings held by the drawer toward a drawn peer; **the more affiliative feelings the drawer had, the shorter the distance between the figures.** To the best of our knowledge, ours is the first study to reveal that picture drawing can measure a child's affiliative feelings toward a peer.

Overview

Conventional ways of measuring affiliative feelings of children toward others suffer from expense and ease of comprehending task purpose.

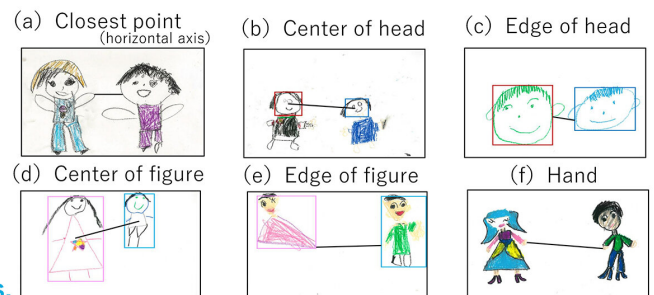
- We revealed that a picture-drawing task can measure 3- to 6-year-olds' affiliative feelings toward a peer.



Two studies found that more affiliative feeling child had toward a peer, the shorter was distance between two figures.

Picture-drawing task

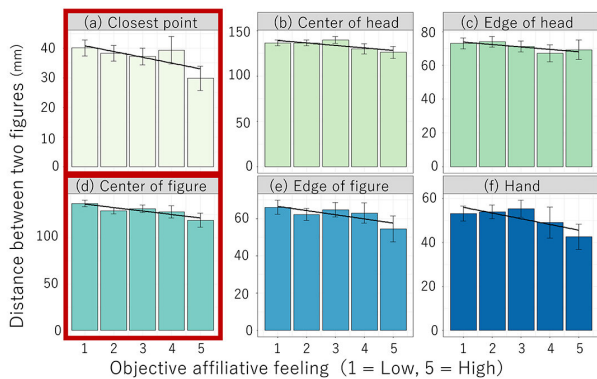
Children drew themselves and a peer on a drawing paper (270 X 380 mm) and we measured distance between them.



Study 1: Objective affiliative feeling

A teacher rated how often two peers (drawn in a picture) play together on five-point scale to measure feelings based on their behavior.

→ **Objective affiliative feeling** (1 = Low ~ 5 = High)



Higher objective affiliative feeling possessed by a child, the shorter the distance was.

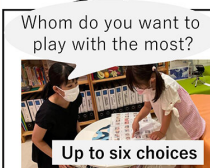
(closest point: $p = .047$, center of figure: $p = .005$)

Participants: 3- to 6-year-old preschoolers
Study 1: $N = 832$ (from 21 preschools)
Study 2: $N = 44$ (from single preschool)

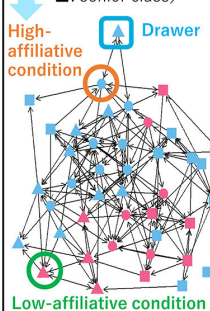
Study 2: Subjective affiliative feeling

We established Social Network (SN) by asking a question.

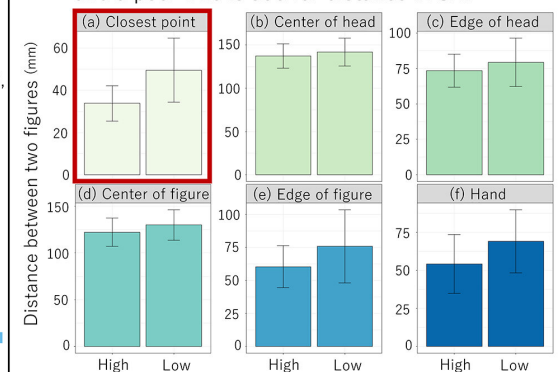
→ **Distance in SN = Subjective affiliative feeling**



Up to six choices
If boy A nominated girl B, we expressed it as
● → ▲
(●: junior class, ▲: middle class, ■: senior class)



- High-affiliative condition:** Children drew themselves and a peer who is at a close distance in SN.
- Low-affiliative condition:** Children drew themselves and a peer who is at a far distance in SN.



Distance between two figures in high-affiliative condition was significantly shorter than in low-affiliative condition.

(closest point: high = 33.78 mm, low = 49.53 mm, $p = .032$)

References

- [1] A.Shinohara, M. Narazaki, T. Kobayashi, "Children's affiliation toward peers reflected in their picture drawings," *Behavior Research Methods*, Vol. 55, pp. 2733-2742, 2023.
- [2] A.Shinohara, M. Narazaki, T. Kobayashi, "Children draw favorite peers close to them in pictures: Longitudinal evidence using social network analyses," under review.

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