

# Age Changes in Agentive Perception to the Day Care Center Situation

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## Our Team

**Finland**     **Jyrki Reunamo**

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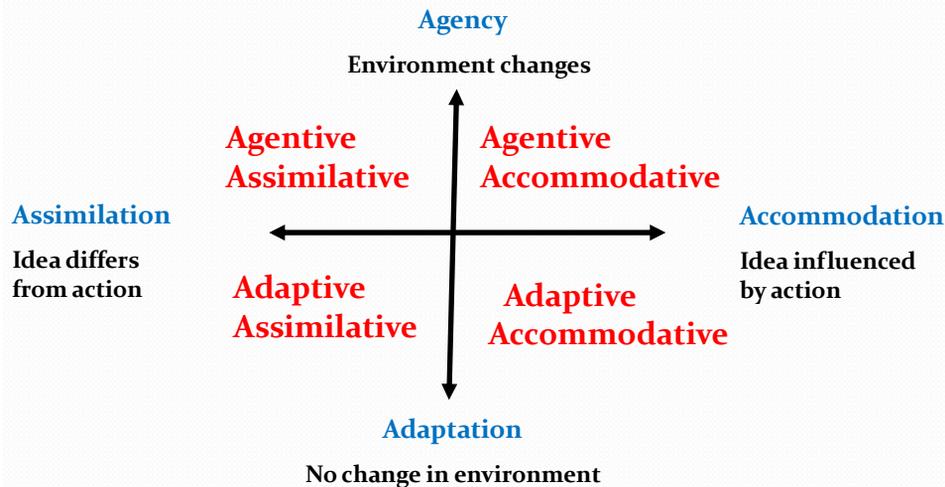
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# Reunamo's Agentic Perception



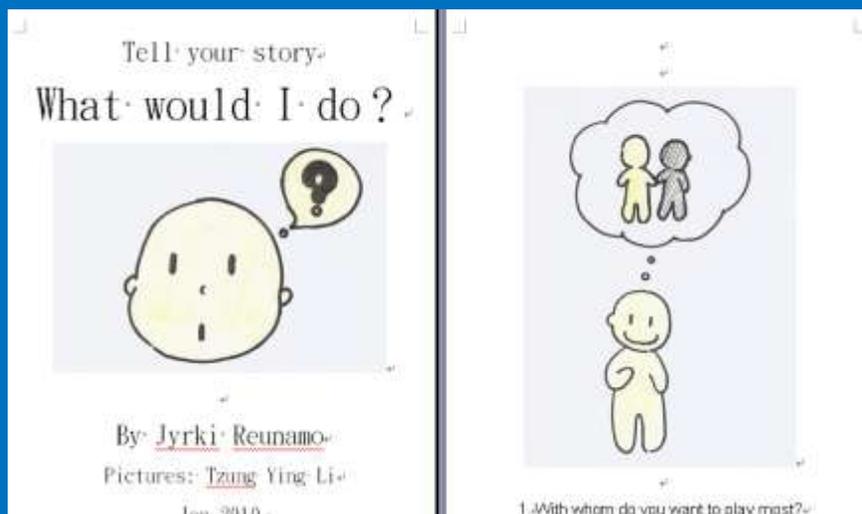
## Research Questions

1. What are the age differences in agentic perception?
2. How do children in Taiwan and Finland response differ in the development of agentic perception?

## Research Method

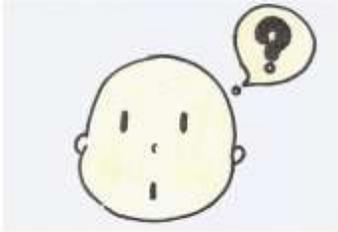
- 366 Taiwanese and 698 Finnish children
- Age 3-6
- Interview with 16 items about situations in day care setting
- Items concern adult-child or child-child interaction

### Interview Story (English Version)

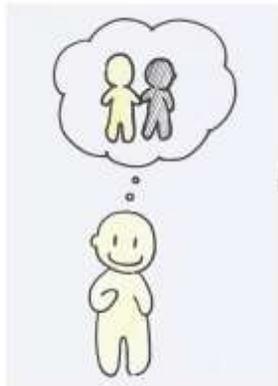


## Interview Story (Chinese Version)

說你的故事  
我會怎麼做？



文: Jyrki Reunamo  
圖: 李宗穎



1. 你最想要和班上的哪一位小朋友玩？

## Interview Items (Adult-Child Interaction)



10. A teacher comes to stop your play, What do you do then?

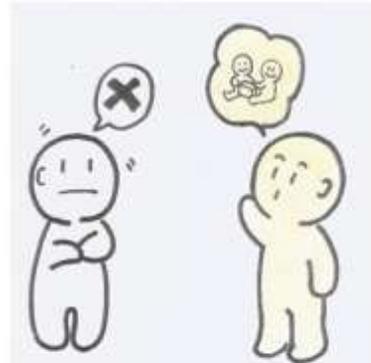


11. What if you don't like the activity arranged by the teacher? What do you do then?

## Interview Items (Child-Child Interaction)



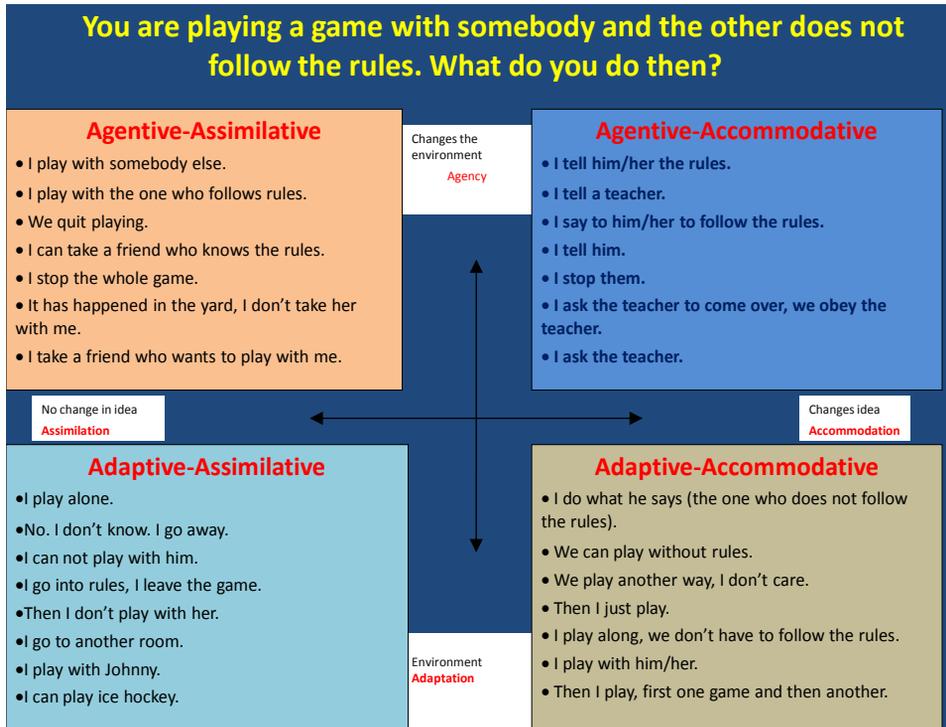
6. Let's think you are playing with someone and your friend wants to change play. What do you do?



7. What if a friend will not play with you? What do you do?

## Data Coding

- Each response from each child was individually coded into the 4 categories suggested by Reunamo
- Sometimes the child's meaning was not clear, and those responses were coded "uncertain"
- The 3 year olds gave the most "uncertain" responses, and there were very few unclear responses for the older children
- For the sake of simplicity, the "uncertain" responses are not included in the figures presented today

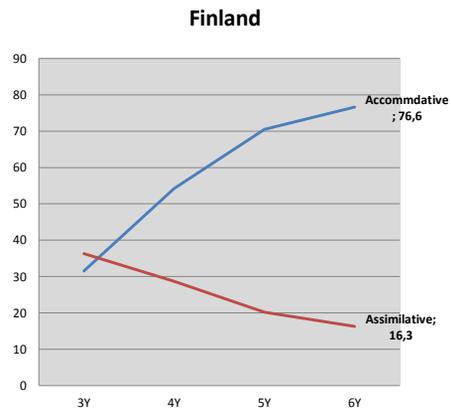
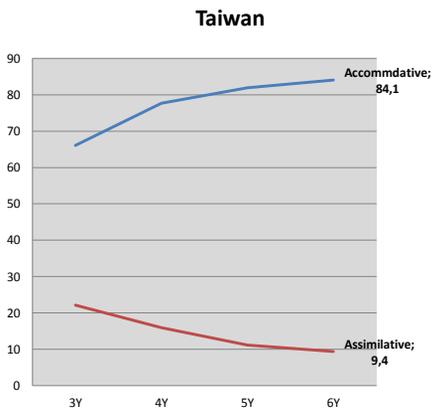
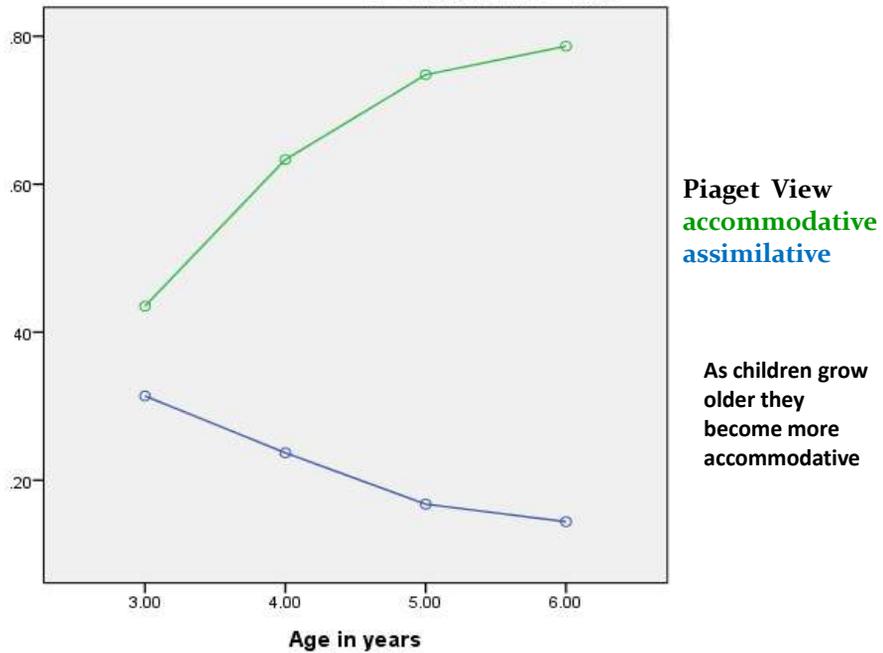


## Results 1

### First

We look at the data in terms of Piaget's view

1. Assimilation vs Accommodation
2. Year 3-6 Age Trends
3. Taiwan vs Finland



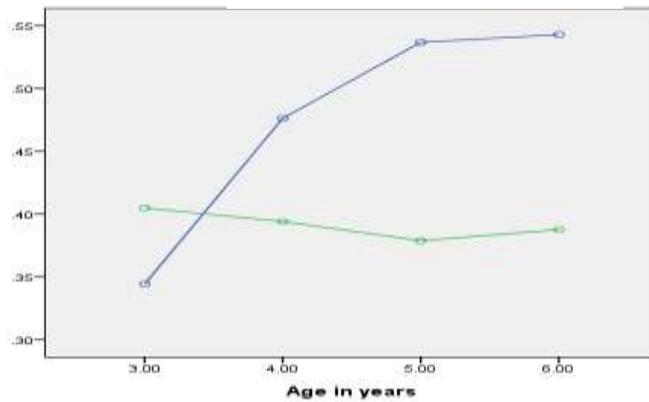
1. In general, Taiwan children's responses are more accommodative
2. In both countries, something is happening between age 3-4
3. Finnish children seem to make a large shift towards accommodative responses

## Results 2

### Second

We look at the data in terms of Vygotsky's view

1. Adaptation vs Agency
2. Year 3-7 Age Trends
3. Taiwan vs Finland



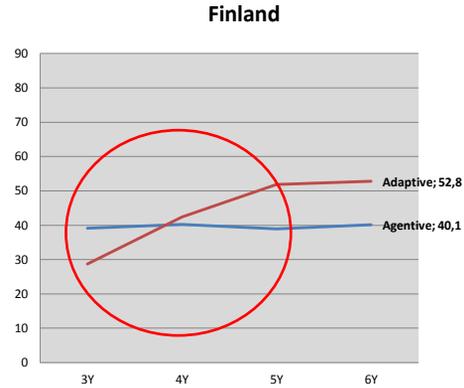
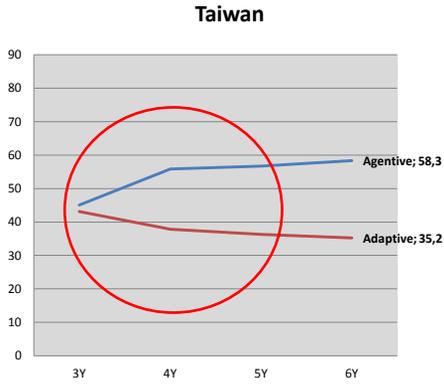
Vygotsky View

agentive

adaptive

At Age 3, children make more adaptive responses

After Age 3, children gradually become more agentive

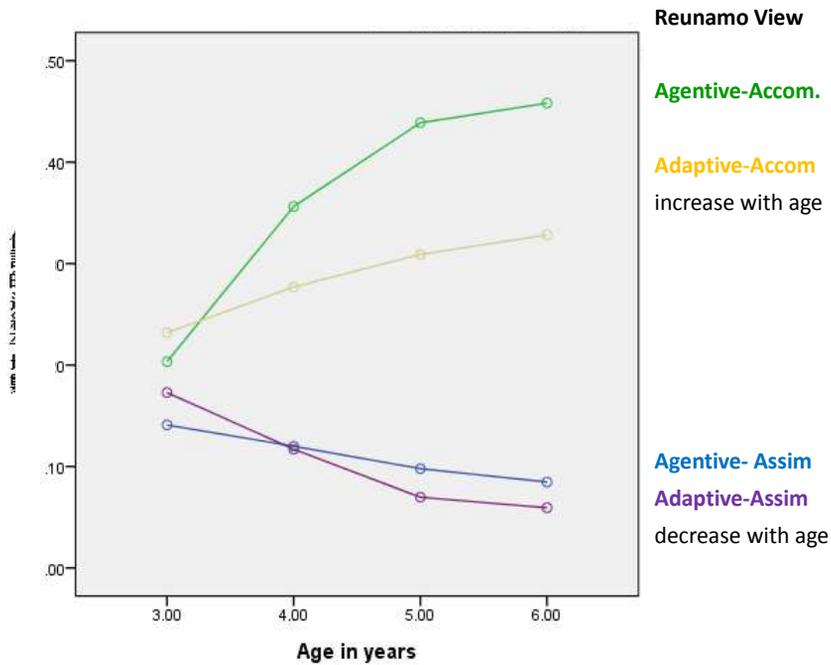


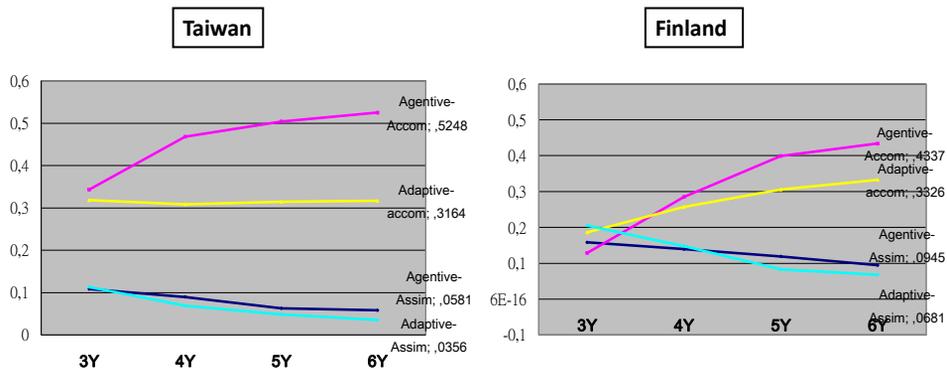
### Taiwan

1. Between 3 and 4, children's adaptive responses drop, and agentic response rise most significantly.
2. After age 4, the trend continues.

### Finland

3. Finnish children generally give more adaptive responses than Taiwan children.
4. The proportion of adaptive responses remain stable with age
5. The rise in agency is more significant between age 3-5.





1. **Agentive-Accom** Finland responses go from the lowest proportion at age 3, and makes a steep rise, but does not reach as high as Taiwan. Taiwan start higher and reach higher.
2. **Adaptive-Accom** Taiwan remains around the same. Finland start lower and reach about the same level as Taiwan
3. **Assimilative** responses: Taiwan starts lower than Finland and go even lower than Finland.
4. Finland data shows an age x category interaction.

## Discussion

### For theory

1. Finnish and Taiwanese children interact with the environment in similar ways. They recognize that they can have an effect on the environment, and may negotiate with others in that environment.
2. Age 4 appears to be an important turning point in the development of agency. We see changes in the children's responses in both countries. In Taiwan, children begin to stabilize in agentive responses starting at about 4 years.

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- 3. There are differences in developmental trends between children in the two countries. Apart from the effects of smaller sample size in Taiwan, the role of cultural effects is worthy of further exploration.**



### **Practical Applications**

- 1. Teachers may review their curriculum and individualize their teaching according to children's agentive perception; and also acknowledge that children may participate in changing their environment.**
- 2. Teachers should understand developmental trends in agentive perception and increase opportunities for discussion, communication, and negotiation with children.**



## **Suggestions for Further Research**

- 1. Increase representativeness of sample – a stratified sampling design would be most effective in including different kinds of day care centres.**
- 2. Look at the relationship between children’s agentic behaviour, teachers’ assessment, and social interaction between peers, etc. in relation to the interview responses in the current study.**
- 3. Examine the effects of historical, social and cultural factors on the development of agency.**

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- 4. Explore the effects of agentic development on learning -- Further explore the relationship between agentic development and children’s learning experiences in day care, their language skills, their socialization. In addition, longitudinal studies would strengthen our knowledge of these relationships.**



# Thank You!

For further information

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