

Chapter One: Abstract

The present study investigates Hong Kong children's facial expressions during lying. The facial action units of 118 preschoolers ages three to five were analyzed to examine how skillful preschool children are in concealing a transgression in the temptation resistance situation by adopting Ekman and Friesen's Facial Action Coding System (FACS, 1978). Children's facial expressions when listening to three distinct questions and giving answers were recorded and analyzed. Results indicated that the pattern of liars' observed facial expressions was distinct from that of confessors' and honest children's in Question 3. Children's facial expressions were significantly correlated with whether or not they lied. However, neither gender nor age were associated with their facial expressions during lying.