

Abstract

A total of 145 Chinese children in grades 2 and 4 participated in this study. Results showed that older children scored significantly higher than younger children did in their ability to perceive others' emotions. Overall, girls were found to have significantly higher friendship quality when compared to boys. The most basic component of emotional intelligence, the ability to perceive others' emotions, was found to be a significant predictor of children's friendship quality. The present study also succeeded in developing a relatively valid and reliable scale, the Emotional Intelligence Scale for Children - Faces, for measuring young children's perception of others' emotions directly.