

Abstract

The present study investigated the encoding strategy of high functioning (Hi – AUT) and low functioning (Lo – AUT) children with autism in managing complex geometric figure. Forty-one Hi – AUT, 10 Lo – AUT and 55 normal children (NC) were recruited and required completing a Rey – Osterrieth Complex Figure Test (Rey – O) for copy condition and immediate recall condition. All autistic children organized the Rey – Osterrieth Complex Figure (ROCF) worse than NC. They did not view the basic structures of ROCF as connected in a meaningful way and they have missed out more details. In addition, majority of Lo – AUT has been focusing on the ROCF locally whereas Hi – AUT showed this pattern in immediate recall condition only. It implied that complexity has been affecting Lo – AUT on managing the geometric figure more than Hi – AUT. Finally, encoding strategy adopted by Hi – AUT and Lo – AUT has been correlated with their performance in learning and subsequent recall condition.