

Free case study about false belief

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I took a small box of cereal and put an apple in it. John is a three year, six months old boy. I asked John what he thought was in the cereal box. John responded that the cereal box contained cereals. I opened the box and showed John the apple in the box. After that, I asked John what his friend Ryan would think is in the box.

In the first instant when I asked John what was in the cereal box; John replied that the box had the cereals labeled on top of the box. After showing John what was in the cereal box, and asked him what his friend Ryan would think in the box. John quickly responded that Ryan would think it's an apple. On the case of Ryan, John failed by assuming that what he knew is what Ryan knew i. e. John had seen what is in the box and thought that Ryan would have the same knowledge as him.

The results indicate that children within this age bracket do understate the mental states of the others. The fact that John fails to indicate that John does not realize that his mental status of others differs from theirs. The belief that children between age three and five; the age of conceptualization, is not necessarily true. There are various other underlying factors that affect the answer the child gives. For example, if the same tests are applied for American and Chinese children, the results do not match. Children in East Asian culture tend to lag behind the North American children on false belief tests within the same age. The false belief tests have external validity that greatly affects the result. In addition, the culture and the mental development milestones are not the same for each child.