



SIG 5 Symposium

Self-regulation and executive functions in early
childhood: conceptualization, assessment and
findings

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Self-regulation and executive functions in early childhood: conceptualization, assessment and findings

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Chair: Paul Leseman, Utrecht University, The Netherlands

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Integrative Statement:

Despite the wide consensus on the critical importance of optimal development of executive functions and self-regulation in early childhood, there is still a lack of conceptual clarity regarding these constructs and, related to that, a lack of consistency of assessment methods across studies. Several issues stand out. Does EF in young children show the same three-factor structure found in older children and adults? How do testbased measures of EF relate to children's observable self-regulation in actual (classroom) contexts? Can 'cool' and 'hot' executive functions be reliably distinguished in young children, how are they interrelated and how do they interact in the actual classroom context? The present symposium addresses these issues. Vandenbroucke et al. present the results of a study examining the structure of executive functions in 5- to 6-year-olds in Flanders, Belgium. Cadima et al. present findings of a study into the distinction in cool and hot executive functions in a Portuguese sample of preschoolers. Van Ravenswaaij et al. present the results of an in-depth microgenetic study of the coping strategies that Dutch 2- and 3-year-olds employ to deal with delay-of-gratification tasks. Finally, Slot et al. present the outcomes of an observation study in Dutch day care and preschool classrooms with 2- to 4- year-olds addressing the question how children put their executive functions and self-regulation into practice.

Keywords: Executive function; Self-regulation; Assessment

Structure of executive functions (EF) and risk profiles for EF-quality in preschool children

Loren Vandenbroucke, Karine Verschueren, Dieter Bayerns, KU Leuven, Belgium

Self-regulation in young children in Portugal: testing a two-component model

Joana Cadima, Teresa Leal, Tiago Ferreira, Paula M. Matos, Joana M. Vieira, University of Porto, Portugal

The dynamics of self-control during delay of gratification in toddlers

Heleen van Ravenswaaij, Hanna Mulder, Paul Leseman, Josje Verhagen, Utrecht University, The Netherlands

Relating observed self-regulation in play to test-based measures of cool and hot executive functions

Pauline Slot, Hanna Mulder, Paul Leseman, Utrecht University, The Netherlands