

Rachel Gonzales

Junior Division Behavioral & Social Sciences

Remember This!

The purpose of this experiment was to see if boys or girls had better short-term memory. Based on my initial research, I hypothesized that the girls would remember more of the 32 words provided because boys have been said to remember basic surroundings, but girls remember more of what they hear and specific details. I tested 20 children; 10 girls and 10 boys. Of the 20 children, their ages varied from 11 to 12 years of age. In my experiment, I took 1 of the 20 test subjects at a time into a quiet room provided by my school. By giving them a list of 32 random words ranging from computer to peanut to horse, they had 45 seconds to look at the list of words before it was taken away. The test subject was then asked to write down all the words that they had remembered during the short time period. Over all, the girls had a higher percentage of words remembered, never dropping below 25%, whereas the boys ranged from 50% to 6% words remembered. Over all, my results show girls remember a higher percentage of words.