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# Prospective and Retrospective Time Estimates of Children: A Comparison Based on Ecological Tasks

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## Abstract

Children's time estimation literature lacks of studies comparing prospective and retrospective time estimates of long lasting ecological tasks, i.e. tasks reflecting children's daily activities. In the present study, children were asked to estimate prospectively or retrospectively how much time they played a video game or read a magazine. Regardless of the task, the results revealed that prospective time estimates were longer than the retrospective ones. Also, time estimates of the video game task were longer, less accurate and more variable than those of the reading task. The results are discussed in the light of the current literature about time estimation of long lasting ecological tasks.

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## Abstract

30 students, when performing a task that required listening to 19 sentences for 150 sec., overestimated the duration of the task less in the prospective condition than in the retrospective one (46 sec. vs 85 sec.).

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