KORASZÜLŐTT GYERMEKEK
PSZICHODIAGNOSZTIKAI VIZSGÁLATÁNAK ÉS
ISKOLAI BEVÁLÁSÁNAK EREDMÉNYEI

ESTEFÁMÉ VARGA MAGDOLNA

Abstract: The Hypothesis The goal of my research was to determine whether premature
birth as a biological risk factor determines the child's mental development, attainment of
scholastic maturity and subsequent aptitude and integration in the school.

Furthermore, I have also investigated the effect of environmental factors, socio-economic
status, education in the home and intellectual influences, and the degree to which these factors
help or detain scholastic aptitude. In the longitudinal study, I was interested to determine
which class of factors promoted children's scholastic aptitude: the environmental influences or
biological factors. In addition, I was also interested to find out which of the psychological tests
had a predictive value concerning scholastic aptitude.

The investigational sample consisted of 30 prematurely-born children (14 boys and 16
girls) from the ministration area of the Eger Educational Counselling Centre. The children's
perinatal risk-level was as follows: average gestation period: 33.9 weeks; birth weight under
2500 grams, average weight 1885 grams.

Methods of Investigation and Applied Investigational Parameters:

1. Biological parameters (anamnestic data: pre- and perinatal biological data: process of
gestation, gestation period, birth-weight; data of development: locomotion and speech).

2. Characteristics of the domestic environment: SES at the age of 6, the educational
attitude of the mother, intellectual stimulating factors, HOME inventory at the age of 10.

3. Output variables indicative of the level of development:
   Budapest Binet IQ at the age of 6, and the Goodenough evaluation of human representation
   as an index of visuo-motory coordination, as well as the Bender-test (B variant, Santucci and
   Galifret-Granjianan evaluation)
   HAWIK at the age of 10, Bender B and Brickenkamp's advertence-test (d2)
   Questionnaire to seek school teacher's opinion at the end of the first school year, repeated at
   the end of the fourth school year.

4. Computer software applied: BMDP 2V, BMDP 4M, BMDP 7M (for examinations
between the ages of 6 and 7), BMDP PC 90 software package (follow-up examination at the age
of 10).

Summary of Results of Research Into Premature-Birth

Our results confirm the findings of a number of researchers that perinatal biological insults of a
similar gravity, such as premature birth and low birth-weight, may affect the intellectual
development of children differently, depending on particular environmental factors. A
favourable family background may mitigate or completely eliminate the harmful effects,
whereas problems may be aggravated by unfavourable social circumstances.

Of the psychological tests, the BENDER B test has a prominent role in predicting learning
aptitude at the age of 6 or 7. The predictive power of the test is preserved, albeit to a lesser
degree, at the age of 10, its prominent factor being Bender direction. Goodenough's drawing