

Does age affect the order of Smarties eaten?

INTRODUCTION

Our aim in this experiment was to investigate if age affects the order of colours that children and staff eat colourful food in.

EXPERIMENT

We designed an experiment that included people from our school community and the consumption of smarties. We took one person at a time and gave them a question sheet (Figure 3) asking them their favourite smarties colour and least favourite then they got to eat the smarties.

FIGURE 3 SURVEY FORM

Favorite smartie colour

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Least favorite smartie colour

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Name: _____
 Grade: _____
 Class: _____

Do you have a normal order, if so what is it?

All of the 32 students recorded their responses on the above survey sheet, while they ate the individual smarties. They numbered the coloured boxes as they ate each smartie. For example, if they ate the green one first, they would put a 1 in the green box. Afterwards, they were asked if they had a normal order or if the way they ate it was different each time.

HYPOTHESIS

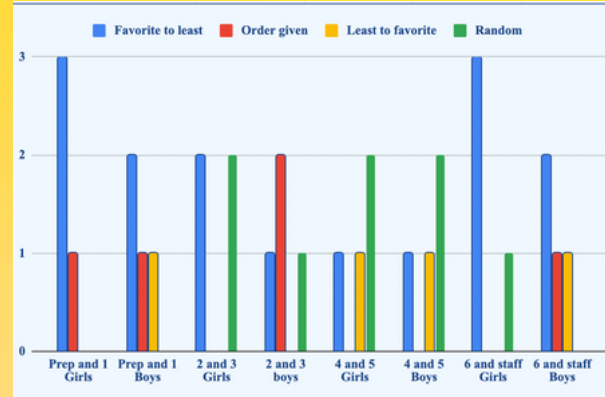
We believe that the older students will think about the order more and are more likely to eat it in some form of order, for example, rainbow or favourite first or least favourite first. The younger students are more likely to use a random order.



CONCLUSION

Our hypothesis was incorrect: We thought younger students would eat the smarties in random order but no prep children did. We also believed that older students would think about it more and take their time but the opposite of that happened, they felt more pressured and ate them quickly although the way they ate them varied. So our hypothesis was wrong but the does seem to affect the order of smarties eaten.

FIGURE 1 ORDER EATEN



RESULTS

We discovered younger children tend to eat their favourite to least favourite coloured smarties while older students either have an order or feel pressured and eat the smarties quickly in the order presented. Referring to Figure 2, the most popular colour is blue closely followed by red and pink while no one seemed to like brown and only one person liked orange.

FIGURE 2 FAVOURITE SMARTIE COLOUR

