Abstract

The purpose of the current study was to examine the role of theory of mind in fairness-related behavior in pre-school children. A total of 56 preschoolers played the ultimatum game in a face-to-face setting. Acquisition of theory of mind was defined as the understanding of false-beliefs using the Sally-Anne task. The results showed that preschoolers who had acquired theory of mind proposed higher mean offers than children who had not. These findings imply that theory of mind, a cognitive ability unique to humans, is a key determinant for the foundation of cooperation in society.