

## **Age and Gender Differences in Emotion Recognition Ability and Intellectual Functioning**

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The present study aimed at discovering age and gender differences in emotion recognition ability and intellectual functioning. Additionally, it explored differences in accuracy of recognizing different emotions and the predictive power of intellectual functioning in the recognition of emotion. A total of 240 participants representing children, adolescents, adults, and older people with an equal distribution of age groups and gender constituted the sample. Emotion recognition was assessed by Facially Expressed Emotion Labeling Test, intellectual functioning of children by Colored Progressive Matrices, and intellectual functioning of other age groups by Standard Progressive Matrices. An *F* test revealed significant age differences in emotion recognition. Children and older people were significantly less accurate and slower in recognizing facial expressions of emotions than both adolescents and adults, who did not differ from each other except for fear recognition. Gender differences in emotion recognition were not observed in any of the age groups. Accuracy rates were highest for the recognition of happy faces and lowest for fear. Intellectual functioning increased with age but slightly declined in old age. Intellectual functioning significantly predicted the ability to recognize emotions in all age groups. Gaining a greater understanding of the normal developmental trajectory of emotional facial recognition across age groups may lead to further investigation of its relationship with psychiatric disorders and psychosocial problems.

*Keywords:* Emotion recognition, intellectual functioning, age-related stability, developmental trajectory