Four-year olds episodic future thinking skills

In this task, 3- to 5-year-olds played a game of blow football on one end of a table. After this children were asked to select 1 out of 2 tools only (not 2 of 6). These findings support Suddendorf, Nielsen & von Gehlen’s (2011) study which indicated that 4-year olds were capable of securing a solution to a future problem and the general literature that future thinking abilities appear in the 3-5 age range (Atance & Jackson, 2009).

Future Directions:
The next step would be to explore the interaction between episodic future thinking and other important abilities that emerge at the age of 4 such as theory of mind and executive control (attention). Knowing that would enable us to see what other factors may impact the development of episodic future thinking and it will guide future research in developing strategies that would enable young children to improve their planning and decision-making skills.

References:


