Non Verbal Communication Devices and Language Acquisition or Re-acquisition
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Abstract
In order to study and favor cognitive development, we defined a new approach (Lowenthal, 1986) : the concept of Non Verbal Communication Device (NVCD).
Each NVCD is the combination of a special intervention and observation method and of a specific device.
The method is based on a quasi non verbal approach (the experimenter does not speak about the problem to be solved) and on manipulations by the subject of specific objects. This method enables the observer to create a mediator of representation and communication.
The specific device must be made of little pieces which can easily be assembled in differing ways. These objects do not belong to the cognitive background of the subjects. They are provided with technical constraints. These constraints make certain actions possible and other impossible. This in turn suggests a logical structure to the subject.
Examples of such objects and associated exercises will be presented in the paper.