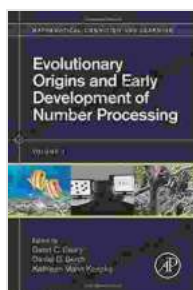


Evolutionary Origins and Early Development of Number Processing

Abstract

Number processing is a complex cognitive ability that plays a crucial role in our everyday lives. How did this ability evolve, and how does it develop in children? This article explores these questions by examining the evolutionary origins and early development of number processing.



Evolutionary Origins and Early Development of Number Processing (ISSN Book 1)

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Evolutionary Origins of Number Processing

The ability to process numbers is thought to have evolved from a more general ability to process quantities. This ability is likely to have been present in early hominins, who needed to be able to estimate the number of predators or prey animals in their environment.

Over time, this ability to process quantities became more specialized, and the ability to process numbers emerged. This specialization may have been driven by the need to keep track of resources, such as food and tools. As humans became more social, the ability to process numbers also became important for communication.

Early Development of Number Processing in Children

The early development of number processing in children is a complex and gradual process. Infants are born with a rudimentary understanding of number, but they gradually develop more sophisticated number processing skills as they grow.

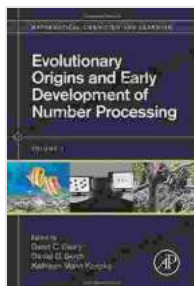
One of the first number processing skills that infants develop is the ability to discriminate between different numerosities. This ability is thought to be based on the approximate number system (ANS), which is a non-symbolic system for representing numbers.

As children get older, they develop the ability to represent numbers symbolically. This ability is thought to be based on the verbal number system (VNS), which is a symbolic system for representing numbers.

The development of the VNS is a gradual process that begins in preschool and continues through adolescence. By the time children reach adulthood, they have typically developed a fully functional VNS.

The evolutionary origins and early development of number processing are fascinating topics that shed light on the origins of one of our most important cognitive abilities. By understanding how number processing evolved and

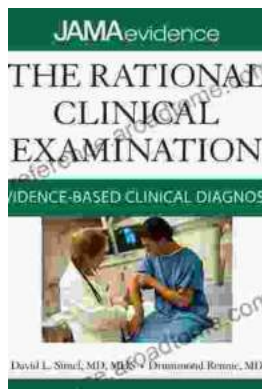
developed, we can better understand how it works and how we can help children to develop their number processing skills.



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