Stimulating the Social Interaction Development of Children through Computer Play Activities: The Role of Teachers

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Abstract : This research is based on three main objectives which are to identify children`s social interaction behaviour during computer play activities, teacher's role and to explore teacher's beliefs, views and knowledge about computers use in four Malaysian pre-schools.This qualitative study was carried out among 25 pre-school children and three teachers as the research sample. The data collection procedures involved structured observation which was to identify social interaction behavior among pre-school children through computer play activities; as for semi-structured interviews, it was done to study the perception of the teachers on the acquired of social interaction behavior development among the children. A variety of patterns can be seen within the peer interactions indicating that children exhibit a vast range of social interactions at the computer, and they varied each day. The findings of this study guide us to certain conclusions, which have implications in understanding the phenomena of how computers were used and how its relationship to the children's social interactions emerge in the four Malaysian preschools. This study provides evidence that the children's social interactions with peers and adults were mediated by the engagement of the children in the computer environments.