PROPERTIES OF EVOKED AND EVENT-RELATED EEG POTENTIALS IN INSTITUTIONALIZED CHILDREN

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The study engaged the 32 children aged 11–15 years split in two groups. The experimental group included the 16 children who permanently lived and studied at a boarding school in Simferopol. The control group consisted of the 16 children reared by their biological parents and studying at general education schools in Simferopol. The evoked and event-related EEG potentials were recorded in a double stimulus go/no-go paradigm (electroencephalograph EEG-16S, "Medicor"). There were measured such variables as the mean reaction time, the number of misses of important stimuli (the subject did not press the button when required), and also the number of erroneous clicks (the subject pressed the button in response to presentation of stimuli that did not require motor reaction). The most part of the parameters of the evoked EEG potentials did not differ significantly between the two groups. Significant differences were found only for the indices of the N1 latent period, N2 amplitude potential and mean reaction time, which were higher in the institutionalized children in comparison with the family-reared ones. These findings can be interpreted as an evidence of a slower cognitive processing speed characteristic for the institutionalized children.

***Keywords*:** evoked potentials, event-related potentials, institutionalized children.

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