

- Identical Twin Boy*
- *Speaking of cloning... Here is a related story. A woman had twins and she gave them up for adoption. One of them went to a family in Egypt and was named "Amal". The other went to a family in Spain and was named "Juan". Years later, Juan sent a picture of himself to his mom. Upon receiving the picture, she told her husband that she wished she also had a picture of Amal. Her husband responded, "But they are twins! If you've seen Juan, you've seen Amal!" (Sorry, couldn't resist!)*

The Kennedy Twins

as study

...When Grace and Virginia Kennedy were of school age, their parents were well aware that something was wrong. The girls were identical twins and, although they were 5 years old, they hadn't learned to talk. Arrangements were made to have the twins tested. To their parents' dismay, both girls were found to have IQ scores below 50—which placed them in a category known as TMR, or trainable mentally retarded. Of course, one of the reasons for their low scores was that they had not developed language. They only babbled senselessly to each other.

The twins were enrolled in a school for the retarded. While at the school, they failed to acquire language, but they did excel in other areas. The question was raised whether they belonged in a school for the retarded. Finally, they were referred to the Speech, Hearing, and Neurosensory Center of the Children's Hospital of San Diego for examination, where speech pathologists discovered something surprising. The speech experts observed, among other things, that the "jibberish" the twins spoke to each other seemed to have a structure. It was also discovered that certain sounds the twins made seemed to relate to specific objects. Furthermore, their jibberish seemed to have the markings of a conversation. For instance, Grace would smile and say something to Virginia, and Virginia would turn and hand her an object. When the twins observed a new object, they would appear to discuss it and then seem to agree on a name for it. They even had names for each other—Poto and Cabengo. It appeared that the Kennedy twins had developed their own language!

To test this possibility, researchers placed Poto in a room with various objects arranged in a certain way. Poto then described the objects and their arrangement to Cabengo via an intercom using their special language. Without difficulty Cabengo arranged identical objects that were in her room to match what Poto had described.

Although such "twin speech" has been observed in twins up to the age of 2 or 3 years, the Kennedy twins used their special language beyond the age of 7 years, which is quite rare. By that time, their language was becoming complex. How far would they go? Language investigators from all parts of the nation began to take an interest in the Kennedy twins. Was this proof that language acquisition was inborn and "native" to our species? Did this demonstrate that if children weren't taught language, they would "instinctively" develop a rich and complex one of