

Infant Learning Project

Developments

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Current Research Findings	1
In the Lab	1
Current Projects	1
Helpful Websites	2
Research for Older Children	2
Your Infant's Development	2
The Center for Children & Families	2
CCF Lecture Series	3-4

Current Projects:

- **Face Discrimination Studies:**
3-4 and 8 months
- **Infant-Directed Speech Categorization:**
4 and 6 months
- **Contact us to participate!**

Current Research Findings:

We recently finished two series of studies and are pleased to share the results.

Infants at 6 and 10 months participated in a study investigating their ability to differentiate videos of two different women displaying the same expression, e.g., happy. This study was completed as part of a larger project that examined whether infants can differentiate two different expressions (happy vs. disgust) seen on multiple faces. If infants can differentiate emotions across different faces, AND they can differentiate two different faces displaying one expression, then infants are forming categories of facial expressions. Our results suggest that infants at both 6 and 10 months differentiated two moving videos of people showing the same emotion, indicating they are detecting differences in the

individual faces. However, 10-month-olds, but not 6-month-olds, detected the same facial expression displayed by multiple people and distinguished that expression from another (happy vs. disgust), which is evidence for categorization of expressions. This ability is important because at around 10 months of age, infants begin to look at adults for information on how to respond to new people and situations. For more information on these categorization findings, please visit our website and click on "Past Findings" on the left.

We also conducted a study looking at whether 4- and 6-month-old infants differentiate videos of two women producing infant-directed (ID) speech that is intended to communicate a comforting message or an approving message. ID speech is the special

way adults and children speak to infants, using high pitch and exaggerated intonation. We found that both 4- and 6-month-old infants can tell the difference between the individual video examples of speech. The videos used in these discrimination studies will be used in categorization studies recently begun at the lab (See "In the Lab" for more information).

We want to thank all of the families that participated in this research! None of our work would be possible without your help. Thank you for advancing our knowledge of infants' abilities and your contribution to scientific knowledge!

In the Lab...

We are proud to congratulate Dr. Emily W. Touchstone on the completion of her dissertation and graduation last spring. Emily's projects in the lab included work investigating 6- and 10-month-olds' categorization of emotions on moving faces. Emily has recently accepted the position of Community Liaison Specialist of the new Center for Children and Families at UTD.

Kristin Kuhlman Atchison successfully defended her dissertation proposal on October 17th. Kristin has already begun collecting dissertation data with 4- and 6-month-old infants on categorization of infant-directed speech. Kristin hopes to complete the research in the spring and graduate soon after.

Kate Shepard and her husband Grant welcomed a new addition to their family, Tucker Arnold.



Tucker was born October 6th and weighed in at 7lbs 5 oz. Kate is now back in the lab and is preparing a research project that will further investigate the role of moving faces during infants' early interactions.



Spring 2009 Lecture Series: Helping Children Succeed

UT Dallas Conference Center (CN), Room 1.102
Wednesday evenings, 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm
800 W. Campbell Rd.
Richardson, TX 75080

FEBRUARY 11TH

Marion Underwood, Ph.D.

"Social Aggression Among Children: What Parents and Educators Can Do to Reduce Bullying"

FEBRUARY 25TH

Shayla Holub, Ph.D.

"Childhood Obesity: How Parents Can Help Children Develop Healthy Eating Practices"

MARCH 25TH

Deborah Wiebe, Ph.D.

"Helping Children and Families Cope with Chronic Illness"

APRIL 29TH

Candice Mills, Ph.D.

"Encouraging Children to Think Critically in an Age of Misinformation"

Directions: From Central Expressway (US 75), take the Campbell Road exit and go west to Waterview Parkway. Turn north on Waterview Parkway, then east on Drive A. Turn north on Drive H and park in Lot I, the first parking lot on your right. (please see route on enclosed map)

This series is free and open to the public. For more information, please visit: <http://ccf.utdallas.edu>

The University of Texas at Dallas is an equal opportunity/affirmative action university.

Map to the CCF Lecture Series

Note: Directions to the Infant Learning Project can be found on our website (<http://bbs.utdallas.edu/ilp/>)

UTD Campus Map

DRIVING DIRECTIONS TO UT DALLAS CONFERENCE CENTER

From Central Expressway (US 75), take the Campbell Road exit and go west to Waterview Parkway. Turn north on Waterview Parkway, then east on Drive A. Turn north on Drive H and park in Lot I, the first parking lot on your right and proceed to the Conference Center (CN).

Direction questions? Call (972) 883-2331

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