INTRODUCTION
Six- and ten-month-old infants' eye-tracking patterns for audiovisual (AV) infant-directed speech (IDS) were examined. Speech samples varied by communicative intent and facial-vocal synchrony.

Communicative intent refers to the intended meaning and function of the speaker's message and is particularly salient in IDS.1-4

- Approving and comforting IDS are distinct intent categories with differing acoustic and visual properties displayed in the voice and on the face of the speaker.1-3, 8

Natural AV speech is characterized by synchrony between the audible speech stream and visible facial movements of the talker.

- Synchronous IDS: Normal AV infant-directed speech, audio and video match.

- Desynchronous IDS: Visual and auditory streams mismatched to communicate different utterances from within the same intent category (either approving or comforting).1-5 Speech onset and offset times misaligned by 1 s.1, 3

The perception of synchronous, redundant information directs sensory exploration in the first postnatal months.1-4, 9, 10

- AV speech is sensory redundant by providing the availability of identical information across multiple sensory systems.1-3, 9, 10

Prior work examined the impact of facial-vocal synchrony on infants' categorization of approving and comforting IDS intents.

- 6-month-olds categorized approving and comforting synchronous IDS across multiple talkers producing distinct utterances but did not categorize desynchronous IDS.1, 3

RESEARCH QUESTION
Do 6- and 10-month-old infants scan audiovisual faces differently as a function of communicative intent and/or facial-vocal synchrony?

METHOD
Measures & Procedure: Infants' looking time and gaze location measured using Tobii T60 XL eye-tracker while seated on parents' lap.

- *Pre- and post-test trials were not analyzed. Included as measures of attention (pre-test) and fatigue (post-test)*

Stimulus: AV video of a female speaker producing a 2-second utterance in English IDS; utterance looped for 10-seconds. Intent & Type counterbalanced across infants. Each infant randomly assigned to one of four experimental conditions indicating:

Communicative Intent (Approving OR Comforting)

Stimulus Type (Synchronous OR Desynchronous)

RESULTS
Analysed proportion of total looking time (PTLT) during first 2.5 seconds to predefined areas of interest (AOIs) on the speaker's face.5, 12, 13, 15, 18

- Desynch

- Comfort

- Synch

- Desynch

- Comfort

DISCUSSION
• The data revealed no consistent fixation patterns for synchronous vs. desynchronous AV faces OR for comforting vs. approving IDS intent.

- But they scanned desynchronous comforting faces differently than other types of AV faces, with more attention to mouths.

- Because features of comforting expressions are diminished in intensity, infants' attention may be drawn to the most salient moving feature – the mouth, when the message intent is unclear.