Cognitive Development Early Infant Abilities

Meltzoff and Moore (1977) videotaped 12- 21 day-old babies as they watched an adult experimenter perform different facial expressions.	The facial expressions were tongue protrusion, lip protrusion and mouth opening.	Observers who were blind to the research aim later watched the videos and coded the babies' own facial expressions.	It was found that the babies' facial expression matched the experimenter's significantly more often than would happen by chance.
Baillargeon et al (1985; 1987) showed babies (3-5 months) moving tableaux representing interactions between simple objects (a box and 'drawbridge', a truck rolling down a slope).	Some of Baillargeon's tableaux were physically possible and some were physically impossible.	The babies' direction of gaze was recorded as they were presented with each tableau.	Infants spent significantly more time looking at the 'impossible' events.
Meltzoff and Borton (1979) gave babies (average age 29 days) one of two different dummies to suck.	The dummies had different shapes: one was smooth, the other was textured.	The infants were then shown the dummies side-by-side and an observer recorded how long they spent looking at each one.	Infants spent significantly more time (71%) looking at the dummy they had felt with their mouths.
Wynn (1992) showed 5-month-old infants a Mickey Mouse doll.	A screen was placed in front of the doll. In sight of the child, the experimenter then placed an identical Mickey Mouse doll behind the same screen.	The screen was then removed to reveal either one or two dolls.	The infants looked for significantly longer when there was only one doll when the screen was removed.

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