

Whitman College Informed Consent Statement

Infant haptic exploration and tool use

INFANT LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT LABORATORY

Psychology Department

Whitman College

(509)527-5599

ABOUT THE STUDY: How do infants explore new objects? When do they begin to change the way they explore objects based on the objects themselves and the surfaces that the objects are on? When and how do they learn to use tools to get a desired toy? And are there differences in these processes based on socio-economic status and level of parent's education? These are the main questions being asked by an ongoing research program under the direction of Melissa Clearfield, Ph.D. in the Psychology Department at Whitman College. We believe that if we do find learning differences in infants based on socioeconomic status, we can better identify children at risk for later problems, and intervene earlier and more effectively. This study should take about 30 minutes per session. After your child is relaxed, you and your infant will simply sit in a high chair and play some reaching games. You will be with your infant at all times. Your child's behavior will be filmed by our video system, so that we can detail exactly what s/he did.

DATA: The videos will be kept on a locked computer and used to determine where/how long your child looked, what s/he reached for, and how s/he reached. We do not use the videos for anything but research purposes, and the videos do not leave the laboratory. If we want to show it outside the research environment, we will not do so without your permission. The data we derive from the video is kept in a locked cabinet. Subjects will be identified by code in the records and no reference will be made to individuals in oral or written reports that could link individuals to the study. If you choose to withdraw your child from the study, your child's data will be erased.

RISK: We take the utmost precautions to ensure the safety of your child. Our people are carefully and fully trained; they are especially sensitive to the needs of children in a research environment; the procedures and equipment are checked prior to every session; and we do not use harmful or dangerous devices or procedures in our studies. Children usually enjoy our experiments and if they should become fussy or bored, or for some reason do not respond well, then we simply end the session.

We always give participating families a small gift for helping us and you will receive this gift even if we cannot finish the experiment for some reason. You are of course free to stop us at any time if you have reservations about what we are doing or do not wish to continue. We encourage parents to ask questions freely. If you feel you have not been treated according to the descriptions in this form or that your child's rights as a participant in research have been violated during the course of this project, you may contact Professor Melissa Clearfield at 522-4427 or Professor Gilbert Mireles at the Institutional Review Board, 527-5259.

PARENT OR GUARDIAN CONSENT:

I, _____, the parent or legal guardian of _____, voluntarily give permission for _____ to participate in the study outlined above. I have read and understand all of the above, and have had all my questions regarding the experiment and the procedures fully and satisfactorily answered. I understand that I can stop the experiment at any time without penalty if I should have any reservations once started. I have received a copy of this document for my records.

(signature of parent or guardian)

(date)

Participant Information Sheet
Infant Learning and Development Laboratory
 Psychology Department
 Whitman College
 Walla Walla, WA 99362
 (509)527-5599

Infant's Name: _____

Date: _____

Birth Date: _____

Sex: _____

Race/Ethnicity: _____

Was your infant full-term (38-42 weeks)? Yes No If no, how many weeks early was your infant? _____

Motor Milestones

Next to each item, please answer yes or no, and then provide the approximate age (in months or weeks) at which the skill first appeared (if applicable).

Sitting independently (without support of parents or hands):	Yes	No	Age:
Crawling:	Yes	No	Age:
Cruising (moving/walking while holding furniture):	Yes	No	Age:
Walking independently:	Yes	No	Age:

Family Information

Mother's Education:

Some high School	High School Degree	Some College	College Degree	Post College Education
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Father's Education (or education level of full-time male resident in household):

Some high School	High School Degree	Some College	College Degree	Post College Education
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To what extent are the following needs being met:

Food:	My family Is frequently hungry	My family is sometimes hungry	I meet my families' needs with state help	I meet my families' needs without help
Housing:	I am homeless Or will be in 1 month	I worry that I could be homeless soon	I can afford my home with state help	I can afford my home without help
Money:	I don't have Enough money For basic needs	I meet basic needs but have no extra money	I have some extra money with state help	I have some extra money without help
Access to help:	There is no State help For me	I don't know How to get State help	I do know how to get state help and have done it	I do know how to get state help but don't need it