1   For 5-Month-Old Infants, Melodies Are Social

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10   Abstract

11   For 1 to 2 weeks, 5-month-old infants listened at home to one of two novel songs with

12   identical lyrics and rhythms, but different melodies; the song was sung by a parent,

13   emanated from a toy, or was sung live by a friendly but unfamiliar adult first in person and

14   subsequently via interactive video. We then tested the infants' selective attention to two

15   novel individuals after one sang the familiar song and the other sang the unfamiliar song.

16   Infants who had experienced a parent singing looked longer at the new person who had sung

17   the familiar melody than at the new person who had sung the unfamiliar melody, and the

18   amount of song exposure at home predicted the size of that preference. Neither effect was

19   observed, however, among infants who had heard the song emanating from a toy or being

20   sung by a socially unrelated person, despite these infants' remarkable memory for the

21   familiar melody, tested an average of more than 8 months later. These findings suggest that

22   melodies produced live and experienced at home by known social partners carry social

23   meaning for infants.

24   *Keywords:* keywords

25   Word count: X

²⁶ For 5-Month-Old Infants, Melodies Are Social

Methods

²⁸ Parents learned to sing one of the two songs. They sang that song to their infants on a
²⁹ regular basis. After 1 to 2 weeks of song exposure, the infants returned to the lab for a
³⁰ selective-attention test. Finally, the parents were recorded as they sang to their infants so
³¹ that expert raters could judge their pitch accuracy.

³² **Participants**

³³ There were 38 full-term infants and their parents from the greater Boston area.

³⁴ **Procedure**

³⁵ **Data analysis**

³⁶ We used R (Version 3.5.2; R Core Team, 2018) and the R-package *papaja* (Version
³⁷ 0.1.0.9842; Aust & Barth, 2018) for all our analyses.

Results

Discussion

References

Aust, F., & Barth, M. (2018). *papaja: Create APA manuscripts with R Markdown.* Retrieved from https://github.com/crsh/papaja

R Core Team. (2018). *R: A language and environment for statistical computing.* Vienna, Austria: R Foundation for Statistical Computing. Retrieved from https://www.R-project.org/