

How do they feel? Preschoolers represent false beliefs about emotions

Alexis S. Smith* & Lisa Feigenson

Johns Hopkins University

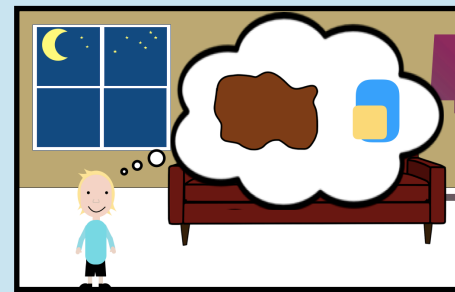
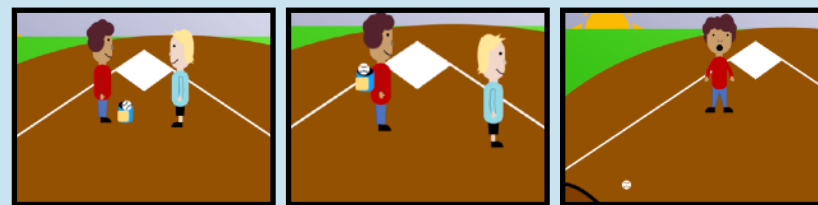
*alexis.smith@jhu.edu

Decades of research have asked whether children can represent false beliefs about objects, but it remains unknown whether children also can represent false beliefs about other, non-object content.

Preschoolers are just as good at representing a false belief about a character's emotion as they are at representing a false belief about an object's location

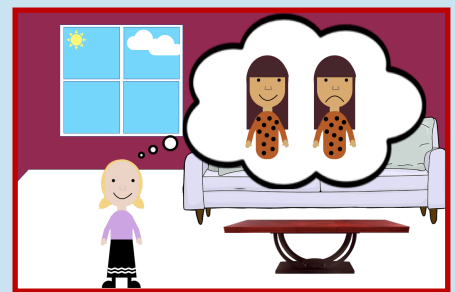
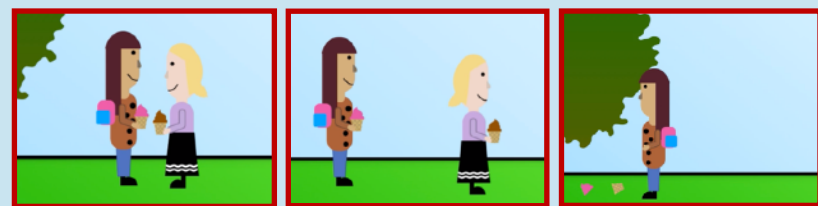
Experiment 1

Object false belief

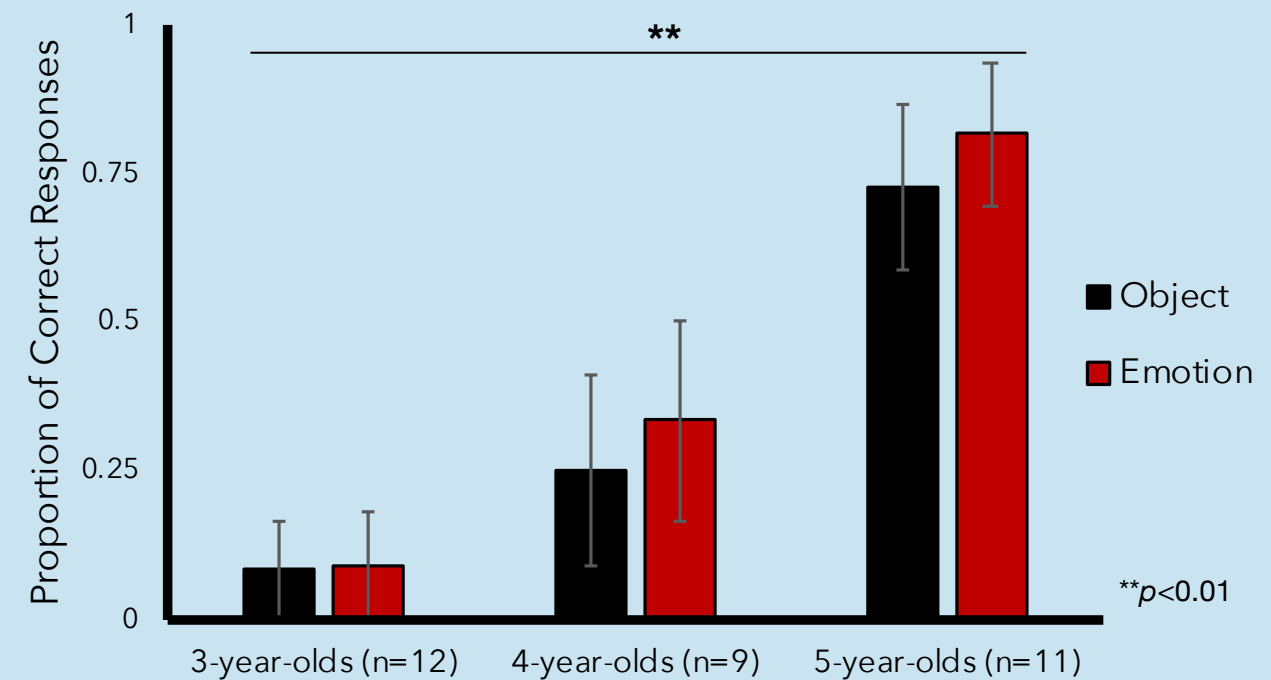


Where does Sam think the baseball is?

Emotion false belief



How does Anne think Sally feels?



Experiment 2

Story 1



Where does Elephant think the cookie is?

Story 2



How does Giraffe think Monkey feels?

