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Dear Editorial Staff, August 2025  
  
We are pleased to submit our manuscript, *“Developmental changes in the precision of visual concept knowledge,”* for consideration as a Research Article in *Psychological Science*.

Children acquire words for visual concepts early in life—but how precise are the underlying representations that support children’s developing lexical knowledge, and how does this precision evolve? Here, we introduce a large-scale, open-source picture-matching task designed to probe the granularity of children’s visual vocabulary knowledge. Across a diverse sample of 3575 children aged 3–14 years, we show that children gradually shift from coarse to fine-grained visual representations, with older children systematically choosing related distractors when they fail to identify a word's referent.

By systematically manipulating distractor similarity using embeddings from a multimodal language model (CLIP), we are able to quantify not only when children know a word, but how precisely they represent what it refers to. Our results challenge the common assumption that visual concept learning plateaus once a word is known, and instead support a visual expertise framework in which concept precision continues to develop across childhood.

We believe the paper offers both methodological innovation and theoretical advancement, with implications for research on word learning, conceptual development, and the structure of children's emerging visual knowledge. The manuscript has not been published or submitted elsewhere, and all authors have approved its contents. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Bria Long, Wanjing Anya Ma, Alvin W. M. Tan, Rebecca Silverman, Michael C. Frank, & Jason D. Yeatman