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Editorial Board

Developmental Psychology

Dear Editors,

Please accept our manuscript “Developmental Gains in Speed and Accuracy in the Processing of Ad-Hoc Implicatures” to be considered for publication. This manuscript explores pragmatic development by looking at implicature computation. Implicatures are a ubiquitous part of language comprehension. For example, “I ate some of the cookies” implicates the speaker ate some *but not all* (a scalar implicature); and “I ate the chocolate chip cookies” where there are both chocolate chip cookies and raisin cookies implicates that the speaker ate the chocolate chip, *but not both the chocolate chip and raisin cookies* (an ad-hoc implicature). Toddlers struggle to compute both types of implicatures, which is a mystery given their early-emerging sensitivity to the need for informativeness in conversations.

Our work provides insight into the development of skills required for implicature processing. In particular, we found evidence that one cause of early issues in ad-hoc implicature comprehension may be inhibitory control: Toddlers struggle to inhibit responses to a salient competitor in order to choose the pragmatically felicitous referent. Thus, our findings take a step towards a processing-based account of the development of pragmatic abilities in early language. We are submitting to Developmental Psychology as we believe this work contributes to a deeper understanding of children’s pragmatic abilities and language development more generally.

Some of these data were reported in the Cognitive Science conference proceedings, a non-archival format (Experiment 1 appeared in Yoon, Wu and Frank, 2015). The entirety of this manuscript and data, however, have not been published before, and the manuscript is not under consideration for publication in any other venue. Please let me know if there is any further information you need in connection with this submission. Thank you again for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Erica J. Yoon

Stanford University