UncertainPraise - Fall2017 (#6471)

Author(s)
Hyowon Gweon (Stanford University) - hyo@stanford.edu
Michael Frank (Stanford University) - mcfrank@stanford.edu
Emily Hembacher (Stanford University) - ehembach@stanford.edu
Mika Asaba (Stanford University) - masaba@stanford.edu

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1) Have any data been collected for this study already?
No, no data have been collected for this study yet.

2) What's the main question being asked or hypothesis being tested in this study?
We ask whether young children (4-5 year-olds) are sensitive to the informativeness of others' feedback (e.g., a teacher who overpraises others' work vs. a teacher who selectively praises with respect to the quality of work). In particular, we predict that young children will use the informativeness of others' prior feedback to differentially evaluate the quality of their own work.

3) Describe the key dependent variable(s) specifying how they will be measured.
Subjects will watch videos of two teachers who provide feedback to a student on his 6 tracings. The experimenter will tell the subject that the student really wants to know which tracings are good because he is going to show them to his class later.

Three of the student's tracings are very good and three are very bad. The Overpraise teacher provides praise for all 6 tracings ("This is great!"), and the Selective praise teacher provides praise only for the 3 good tracings ("This is great!") and neutral feedback for the 3 bad tracings ("This is okay!").

The key dependent variable is the subject's evaluation of the subject's own tracings. The tracings will be put into envelopes (such that the child cannot see the tracings) and then subjects will learn that the Overpraise teacher praised one tracing and the Selective Praise teacher praised the other tracing. Subjects will be told that they can bring back their best tracing to show their teacher and asked which tracing they think is the best tracing. Children will respond by pointing to one of the two envelopes or verbalizing their response.

4) How many and which conditions will participants be assigned to?
Each participant will observe videos of two teachers (Overpraise, Selective praise) providing feedback to the student and the order of the teacher videos will be randomly assigned to participants (Overpraise first, Selective praise first).

5) Specify exactly which analyses you will conduct to examine the main question/hypothesis.
Binomial test for the proportion of subjects choosing the tracing praised by the Selective praise teacher against 50% chance, and a logistic regression with age as a predictor for the choice of tracings.

6) Describe exactly how outliers will be defined and handled, and your precise rule(s) for excluding observations.
Before observing the teachers, subjects will be shown two sets of two tracings (one very good, and one very bad) that are different from those shown in the teacher videos. For each set of tracings, they will be asked "Which one is better?". Subjects who fail one or both of these questions will be excluded.

After watching each teacher video, subjects will be asked to point out which tracings the teacher praised. If subjects fail this question, they will rewatch the video and be asked again. Participants who fail to correctly report which tracings the teacher praised after rewatching the video will be excluded.

7) How many observations will be collected or what will determine sample size? No need to justify decision, but be precise about exactly how the number will be determined.
40 subjects between the ages of 4;0 - 5;11.

8) Anything else you would like to pre-register? (e.g., secondary analyses, variables collected for exploratory purposes, unusual analyses planned?)
We will also ask children a question about the teacher's niceness: "One of these teachers wanted to be nice. Who was trying to be nice?" For this question, we will also run a binomial test for the proportion of subjects choosing the Selective praise teacher against 50% chance, and a logistic regression with age as a predictor for the choice of teachers.