

April 30, 2020

Professor Ori Friedman
Associate Editor
Cognition

Dear Professor Friedman:

Thank you for considering our manuscript entitled *Attentional mechanisms drive systematic exploration in young children* (manuscript number: COGNIT-D-18-00574), and for inviting us to revise and resubmit it. The reviewers offered some additional useful comments, including some intriguing alternative explanations of our results. In light of those comments we have made revisions to our manuscript. Most notably, we added a new section to the General Discussion "Unanswered questions and future directions" in which we consider some of the explanations and concerns of the reviewers and the importance of addressing them with future research. We also made revisions throughout the manuscript to clarify and emphasize the specific contribution our findings and their implications for understanding critical aspects of cognitive development. We hope that you will find this version acceptable for publication, and that you will find our revisions sufficient to make a decision yourself (without sending it back to the reviewers). We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nathaniel Blanco".

Nathaniel Blanco, Ph.D.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Vladimir Sloutsky".

Vladimir Sloutsky
Professor of Psychology