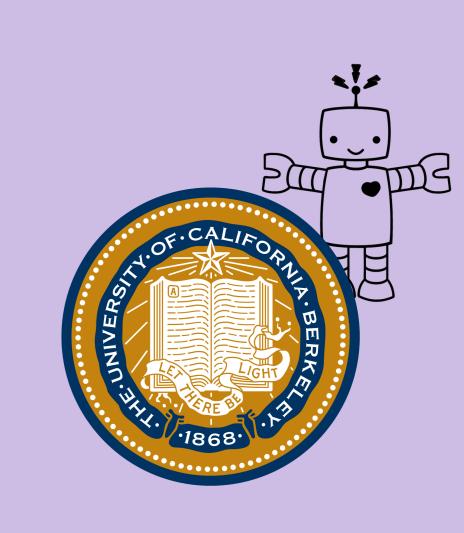
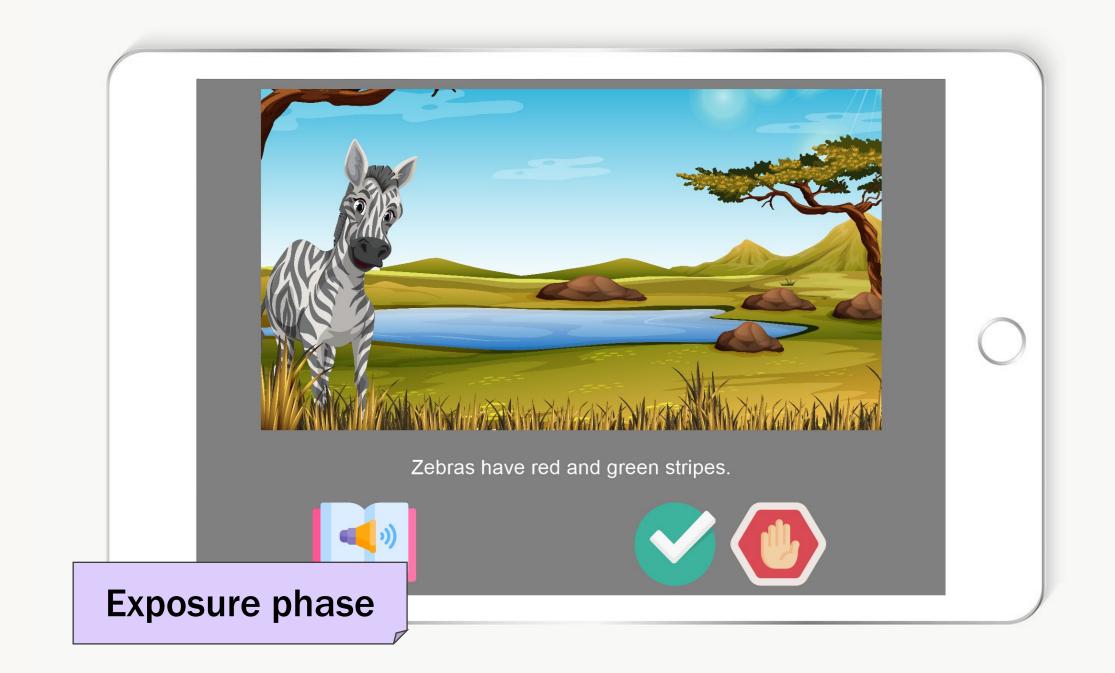
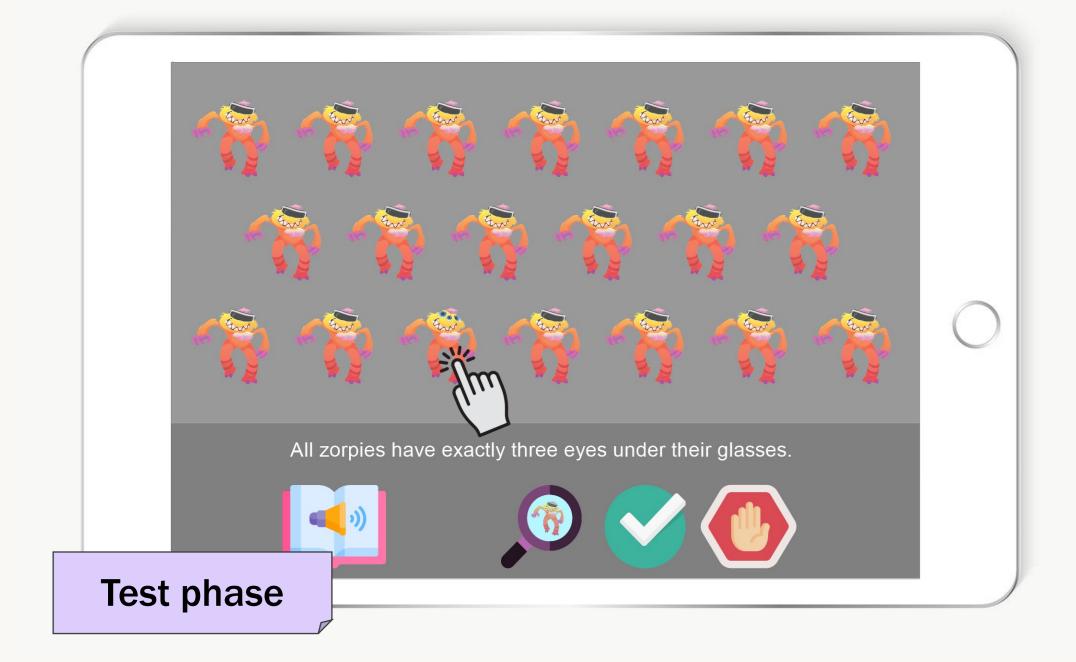
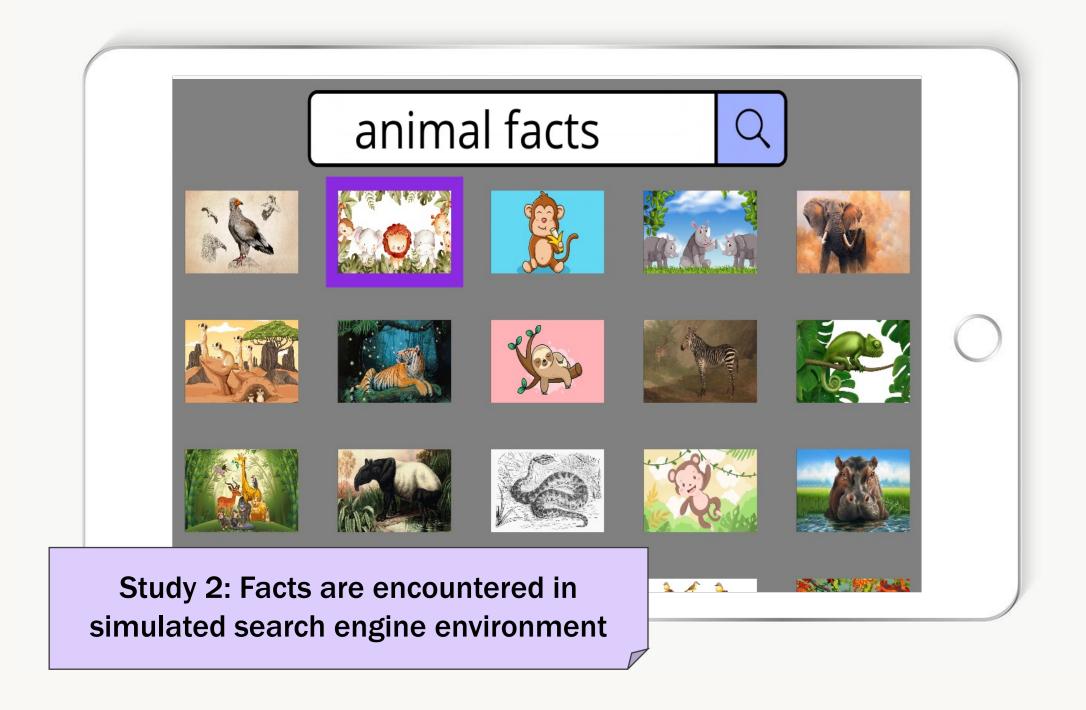
Children increase their evidentiary standards in more unreliable informational environments

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Research questions

- Study 1: Do children fact-check more diligently in an environment with misinformation?
- Study 2: Do children show a graded sensitivity to the reliability of their informational environment? Can children track the broad reliability of an environment composed of distinct sources?

Exposure phase

- Judge veracity of known animal facts
- Study 1
 - Reliable condition: all true facts
 - Unreliable condition: 1/3 false facts
- Study 2
 - Five conditions: 0%, 20%, 40%, 60%, or 80% false

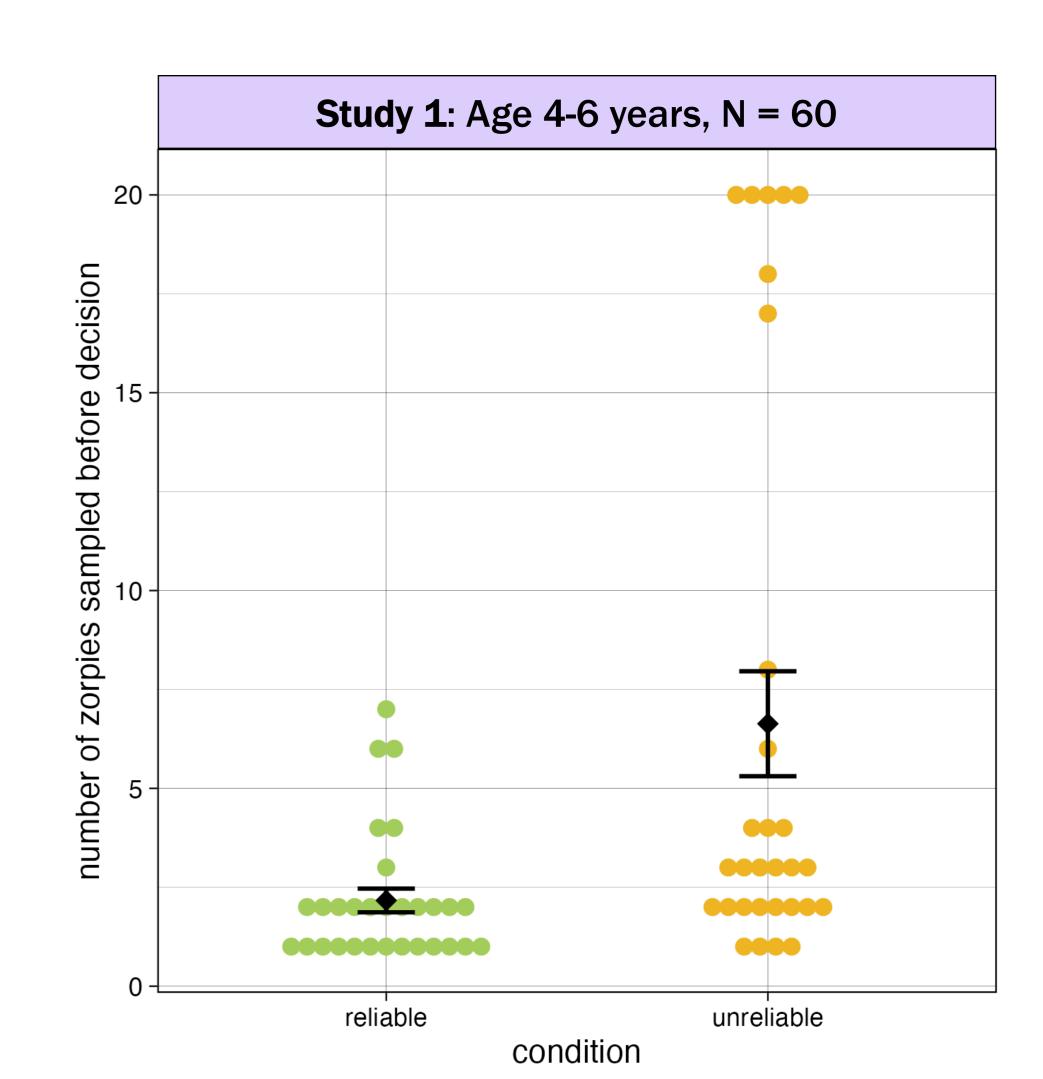
Test phase

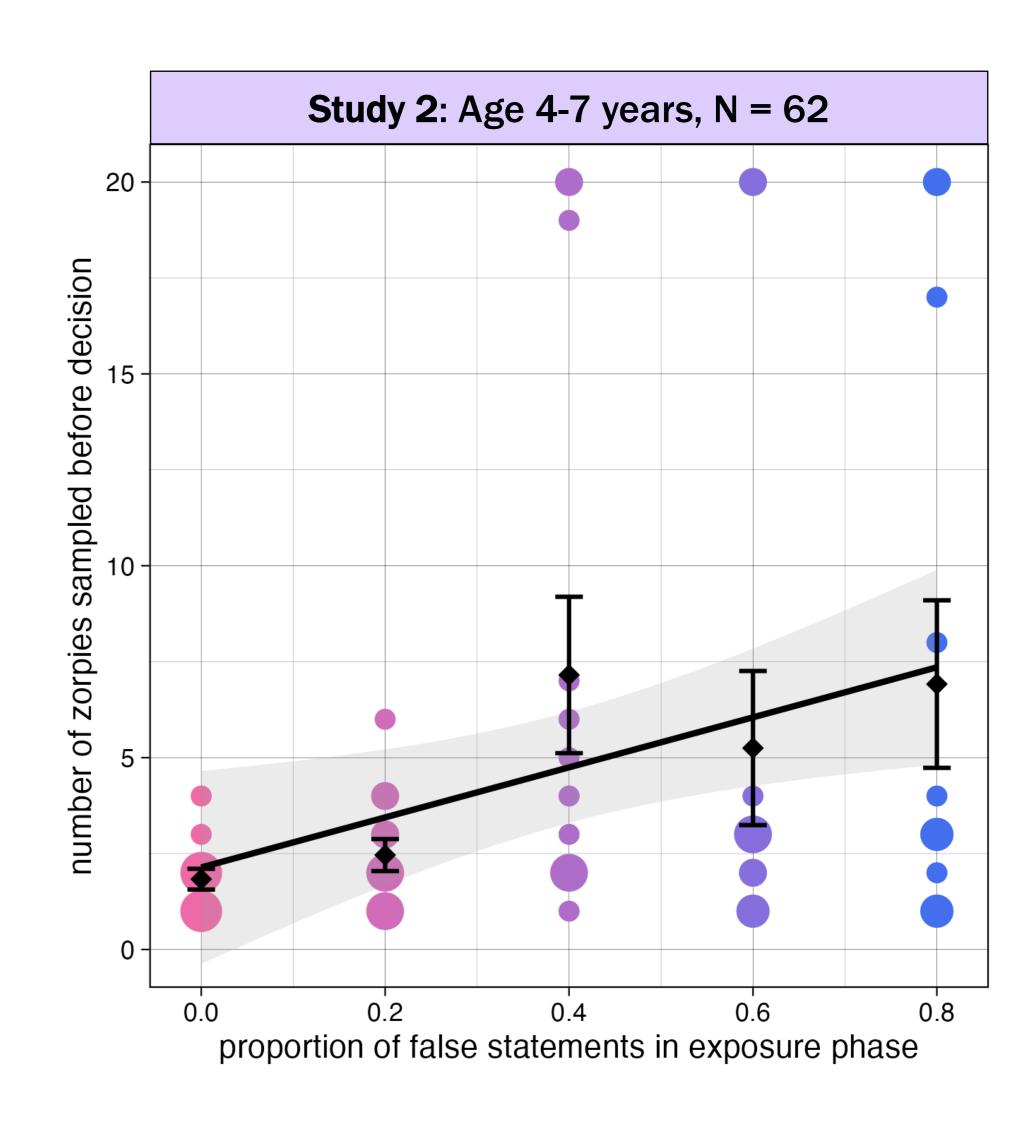
- Judge novel claim about alien species called 'zorpies'
- Can sample info from 1-20 zorpies to gather evidence about the claim
- All zorpies provided identical information

In two experiments, we show that children assess the quality of incoming information in their environment and adapt their sampling behavior accordingly.

Key implications

- If children only see highly sanitized content, they may form unhelpful priors
- Early exposure to more complex informational environments may help foster healthy skepticism







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