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Conducting Online Research With Infants

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In Development

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ABSTRACT

This is a step-by-step process for running synchronous online studies with infants: studies in which you meet parents and infants via video chat. This method is meant to be very similar to methods commonly used in infant labs. We use Zoom (to meet with parents) and youtube for displaying videos, but there are other options (e.g., Slides.com for displaying videos). This method does not employ any habituation techniques or infant-controlled stimulus presentation: All participants see the same number of familiarization videos and test videos. The test videos are also a set length because we measure where on the screen the infants are looking.

PROTOCOL CITATION

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KEYWORDS

null, infant, developmental psychology, online testing, Zoom testing, preferential looking

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MATERIALS TEXT

Video Stimuli, powerpoint or keynote, Zoom, internet connection

Stimuli Set Up

- 1 Make videos of stimuli by using keynote or powerpoint.** Make your keynote file as you would in a study, and then select File->Export->Export to movie. If you don't want time between slides, make sure you set the before and after cells to zero. This will give you videos of the stimuli you can use in your experiment. Double-check that timing etc. is correct in the exported video. If you have several versions of your stimuli for counterbalancing etc, name them 'A', 'B' or '1', '2'.
- 2 Make introduction/wrap-up videos.** Slides that can be used for these videos can be found here: [Intro Slides Etc.pptx](#) and here: [Intro Slides Etc.key](#) These videos should include the following:

- 2.1 Intro Slide: this is the first slide that parents will see and should have the approximate duration of the study, one sentence about what the study is about/what to expect, a reminder to stay neutral, a reminder to turn off notifications, and a statement about what the study will be about.

About today's game



10 minutes



See videos of an actress interacting with Puppets



What does your child think?



This game will be recorded.

- 2.2 Consent Slide: This slide is used for consent. It should say, "I have read and understand the consent document, I am this child's parent or legal guardian and we both agree to participate in the s

Verbal Consent

"I have read and understand the consent document. I am this child's parent or legal guardian and we both agree to participate in this study."

tudy". It

helps to have this statement in quotation marks when you telling the parent to read it aloud.

- 2.3 Soundcheck slide: any short, child-friendly video can be used here. See attached keynote and PowerPoint for one that you can use. This is used to make sure volume is at a good level and videos are working properly. It also helps to have this video when babies are getting antsy. You can either have parents minimize their video here or make a separate video set-up slide (see 2.4).
- 2.4 Video Set up Slide: You can also add a slide to help the parents minimize their video/to help you remember to do this.