

Poster presentation

Faces attract infants' attention in complex displays

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Background

Hersler and Hochstein [1] found in adult experiments that face “pop-out”, that is they are looked at earlier and for longer, when presented together with a variety of different objects.

Materials and methods

In contrast to “classical” “pop out” studies we don't vary the number of distractors. We explored this effect in 6-month old infants. Twelve slides were presented to infants, each one including one human face and five different object distractors. The objects are similar to faces regarding their shape, colour, luminance and familiarity. Also, half of the faces have direct gaze, the other averted.

Results

Results indicate that faces “pop out” among distractors. Direct and averted gaze do not differ from each other regarding pop-out effects.

Conclusions

The implications of these results are discussed.

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