

INFORMED CONSENT TO PARTICIPATE

UNIVERSITY
OF MANITOBA

Research Project Title:
Researcher:

Auditory Discrimination/Preference in Infants
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This consent form, a copy of which will be left with you for your records and reference, is only part of the process of informed consent. It should give you the basic idea of what the research is about and what your participation will involve. If you would like more detail about something mentioned here, or information not included here, you should feel free to ask.

Purpose: This experiment examines infants' perception of language and/or emotional sounds.

Procedure: You and your baby will sit together in a testing booth in front of a set of television screens. You will wear headphones that play noises and music, so that you do not accidentally influence your baby's behavior in the experiment. **Please do not remove the headphones unless you want to stop the experiment.** A series of images or videos will appear on the screens and sounds will be played based on your child's interest in the display(s). We are interested in measuring your child's interest in what they are listening to based on how long they continue to look at the screens. There are no right or wrong answers. Sometimes infants are very interested in what they are listening to and seeing, sometimes they are not at all interested. Both of these are normal and do not say anything about your child's development. Because we are measuring your child's interest in what they are listening to, please avoid talking to your child or otherwise getting their attention during the study. If you want to talk to them or adjust them on your lap, try to do so when there is a circle flashing on the screen(s), or there is nothing on the screens. Of course if your child needs comforting, you should feel free to do so at any time. We will tell you if we see that your child is looking upset. If your child is significantly distressed, we will stop the experiment. You can also stop the experiment at any time by simply removing your headphones. The entire experiment should last 5-10 minutes. You may be asked to fill out a voluntary questionnaire at the end of the experiment.

Risks and Benefits: There are no risks associated with this experiment. Occasionally children become bored or upset. **Your participation is voluntary. You are free to discontinue participation at any time and with no consequences.** We hope that you and your child will find participating to be an enjoyable experience. Without your generous participation, it would not be possible to conduct our research. Please be aware that there is a wide variety of normal behavior, and we do not know ahead of time how the babies will react to our sounds. Therefore, your child's behavior in the experiment will not provide meaningful information about their personal development. If you are concerned about your child's language development, please consult your family doctor/pediatrician or other medical professional.

Confidentiality: Because the experiment will be conducted in the laboratory, it is impossible to assure anonymity. We do assure your confidentiality. No identifying information will be attached to your child's response file. Your consent form and questionnaires will be kept indefinitely in a locked file drawer. The data collected during the experiment will be kept indefinitely on a password protected laboratory computer, and on backup drives stored in the locked file cabinet and in a secure location in the study coordinator's home. All data storage complies with the standards of the Manitoba Personal Health Information Act. Your information will be stored using a random numerical code. The link between your personal/contact information and participant data is stored in a separate computer and

severed after five years of your child's last participation in our studies. Once your contact information is no longer connected to any children in the database, and our responsibilities to provide you with our findings have been met, your contact information is deleted unless you request to continue to receive the newsletter. Should you at any time wish not to be contacted for future studies, please tell a member of the lab, and we will remove your name from the calling list. Laboratory staff, students and technical support people may access your file to perform research. In rare circumstances, university personnel may access your file to verify our compliance with standards of research ethics. Your identity would remain confidential at all times, and will not be revealed during the publication of our findings. In some cases, we may provide information about your child's participation to a public database for researchers. Unless the information is fully anonymous, we would always ask your permission before doing this. Please note that we have an ethical and legal obligation to report suspicions of child abuse.

Our procedure does involve viewing your child over a video camera. Normally we record the session so that we can show evidence of our research upon request by other researchers, and occasionally we review the videos if it looks like there might have been an error in the experimental procedure. However, you can request for your session not to be recorded. Videorecordings, like the rest of your child's information, are stored separately from information identifying your child. These recordings are kept indefinitely unless you request otherwise.

Feedback: We hope that you are interested in the research and we will be happy to answer any further questions you might have about it at any time. Because the research process takes time, particularly when studying young children, it may be a while before we have any results. Please feel to call or email us at any time to ask how things are going. You can also check the lab website <http://www.babylanguagelab.ca>, which provides information about ongoing and past studies. We also send out a newsletter each May with updates on our research findings.

Compensation: You will receive a parking pass for the duration of your stay in the lab or bus tickets if you came by bus. Your child can select a toy or book from the cupboard to take home with them for their efforts. You will the gift regardless of whether your child completes the study.

Your signature on this form indicates that you understand the information regarding participation and agree to participate as a subject. This does not waive your legal rights nor release the researchers, sponsors, or involved institutions from their legal and professional responsibilities. You are free to withdraw from the study at any time, and /or refrain from answering any questions you prefer to omit. This research has been approved by the Psychology/Sociology Review Ethics Board (PSREB). If you have any concerns or complaints about this project you may contact the researcher (see top of form) or the Human Ethics Secretariat at 474-7122, or e-mail humanethics@umanitoba.ca. A copy of this consent form has been given to you to keep for your records and reference.

Participant's Signature

Date

Researcher and/or Delegate's Signature

I wish to receive the newsletter by email letter.

I **DO/DO NOT** give the Baby Lab permission to contact me for future studies.
(please circle one)

Other requests by the parent (e.g. "please do not record a video of the session")