

Background

- ❑ **Infant-directed speech:** The simplified language approach utilized by adults to communicate with children (Matychuk, 2005).
 - ❑ **Simplified Language**
 - ❑ **Exaggerations in facial feature movements** (Green, Wilson, Mefford, Yunusova, 2010)
 - ❑ **Exaggerations in prosody** (Fernald, Mazzie, 1991)
- ❑ Previous research on IDS has **NOT** explored how infants attend to these specific features.

Purpose

- ❑ The purpose of this study is to explore how exaggerations in prosody and facial feature movements contribute to infants' attention during production of IDS.

Research Questions

- ❑ What are infants more attentive to during the production of IDS?
 - **Exaggerations in facial feature movements**
 - OR-
 - **Exaggerations in prosody**

Hypothesis

- ❑ Infants will be more attentive to exaggerations of prosody, during the production of IDS.

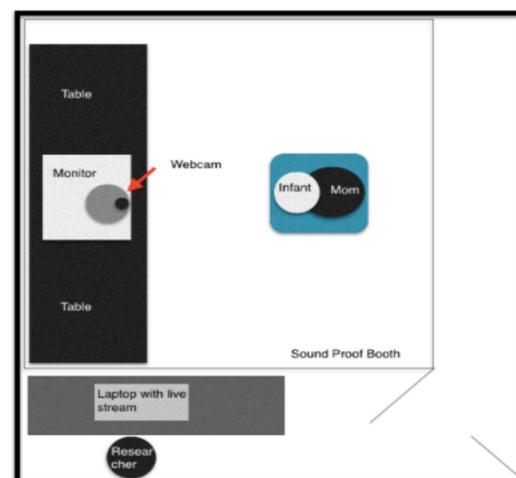
Methods

Participants

- ❑ 3 typically developing female infants (10-18 mos.)
 - ❑ **Participant 1:** 17 months, 27 days
 - ❑ **Participant 2:** 10 months, 11 days
 - ❑ **Participant 3:** 13 months, 11 days

Experimental conditions and equipment

- ❑ The infants viewed, three 48-second videos of a researcher producing all three conditions:
 - ❑ **Control Condition: Typical IDS.**
 - ❑ **Experimental Condition 1: Adult Directed (AD) facial features, with Infant Directed (ID, exaggerated) prosody.**
 - ❑ **Experimental Condition 2: AD prosody, with ID (exaggerated) facial features.**



Map of experimental equipment

Procedure

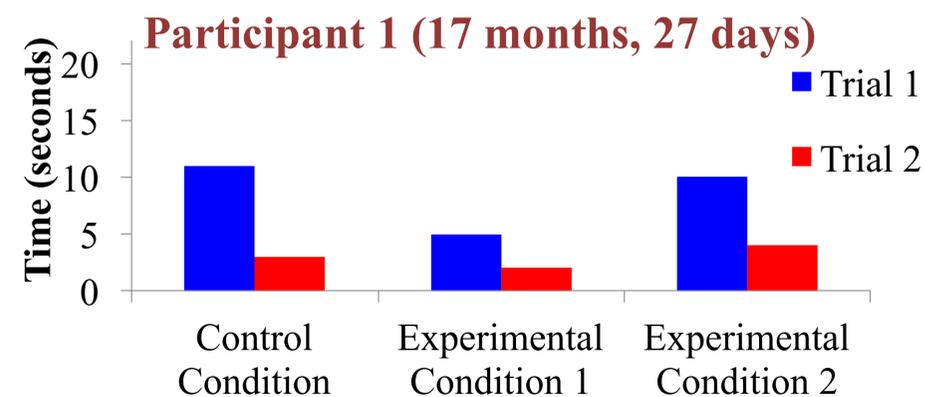
- ❑ Infants sat on parent's lap in sound proof booth.
- ❑ Infants viewed the three videos over a series of trials.

Data analysis

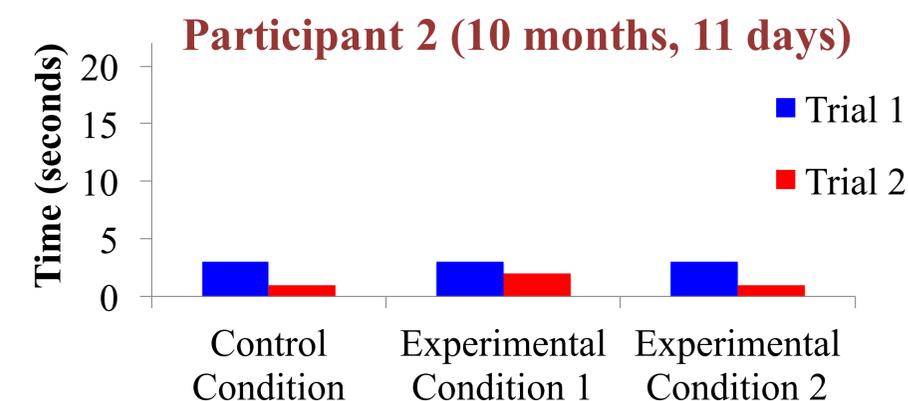
- ❑ Attention (interest) to stimuli was measured using a **habituation looking time paradigm.**
- ❑ Two measures were gathered to determine attention to stimuli:
 - ❑ **Initial looking times**
 - ❑ **Number of trials used to achieve half initial looking time.**

Results

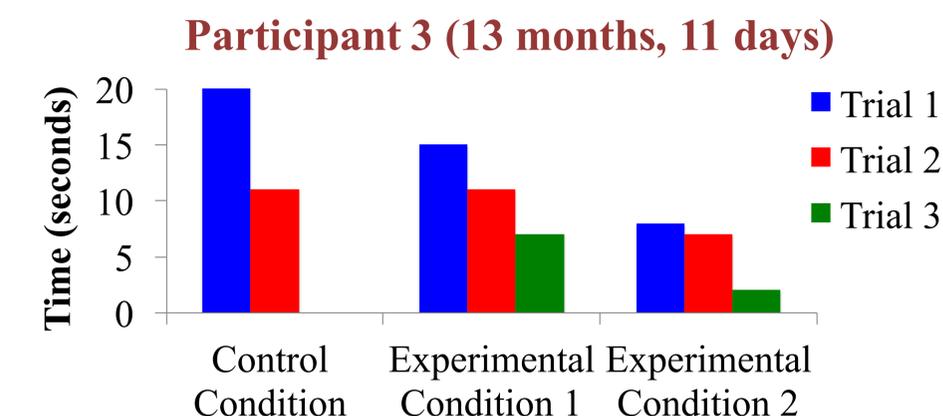
- ❑ Each participant behaved differently, therefore, preference to experimental conditions were determined on a case to case basis.



Participant 1 showed increased preference to ID facial features (Experimental Condition 2).



Participant 2 showed disinterest to all stimuli.



Participant 3 showed increased preference to ID prosody (Experimental Condition 1).

Discussion

- ❑ Our findings are supported by previous research, that states infants' prefer IDS over ADS (adult-directed speech, Schucmacher, 1993).
- ❑ Overall, the results of our research were inconclusive in finding infant preference to either key features of IDS.
- ❑ When one key feature of IDS was removed, IDS became increasingly similar to ADS, decreasing infant attentiveness.