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# Use of behavioral and psychophysiological data in the study of humor and learning in babies

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## HUMOR

Production and understanding develops during the two first years of life (Mireault & Reddy, 2016)

#### Improvement of

### **COGNITIVE ABILITIES**

**ATTENTION MOTIVATION PERCEPTION MEMORY** 

BEHAVIOURAL and PHYSIOLOGICAL measures

#### Improvement of

### LEARNING

Adults,

School-age children (Banas et al, 2011, literature review)

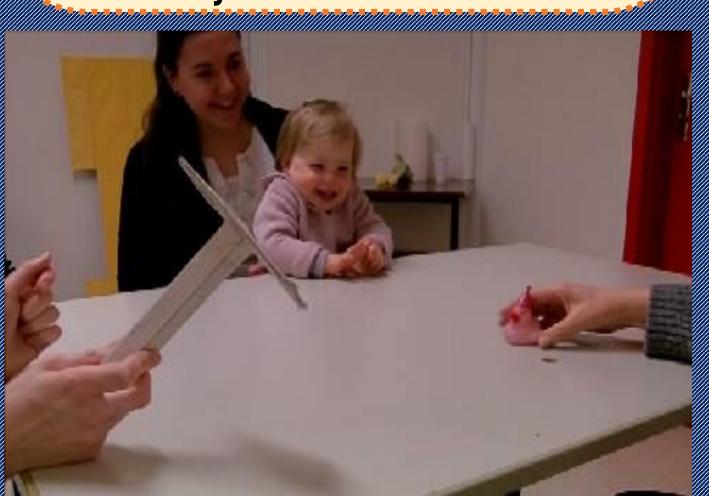
PRESCHOOL-AGE children



#### SAMPLE

12-to-20-month-old children TASK

Rake use to bring an out-ofreach toy within reach



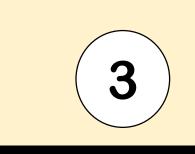
Picture: 18 month-old-infant during the humorous demonstration

#### **PROCEDURE**



Demo

8 demonstrations



POST-demo

1trial

The experimenter retrieves the toy with the rake and then:

...plays with the toy

Classical demo (congruous event)

PRE-demo

1trial

...throws the toy on the floor

Humorous demo (incongruous event)

#### MEASUREMENT

#### **Imitation**

Post-demo success/failure

#### Behavioural Score

- 1) Failure
- 2) Tool-toy connection (failure)
- 3) Trial-error success
- 4) Direct success

Personality (survey)

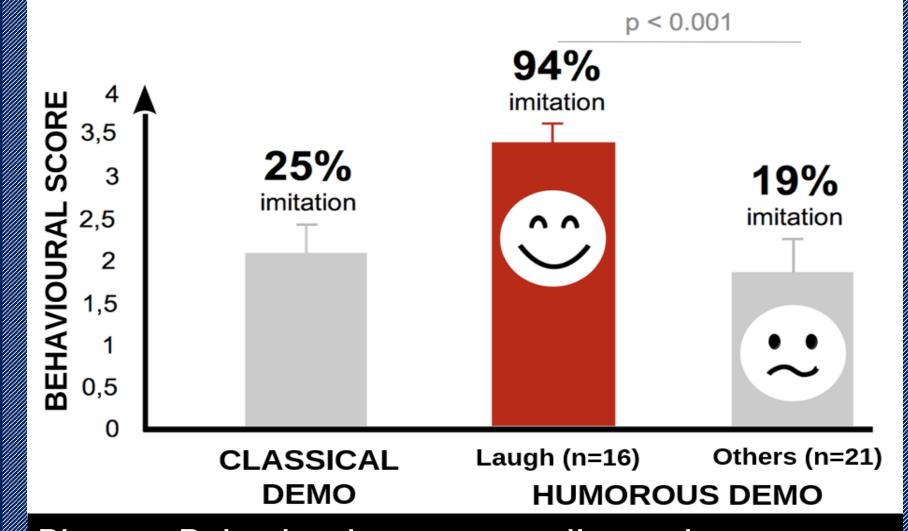
#### Physiological Data: E4 EMPATICA

- 1) Electrodermal activity (EDA)
- 2) Heart-rate (HR)
- 3) Temperature

## **ORIGINAL STUDY**

(Esseily et al, 2015)

BEHAVIOURAL DATA



<u>Picture</u>: Behavioral score according to the demonstration group and the laughing reaction

#### INTRA-GROUP COMPARISON

Score and imitation rate difference between children who laugh at the demonstration and those who do not laugh.

## COMPLEMENTARY (on-going) STUDY

BEHAVIOURAL and PHYSIOLOGICAL DATA



#### Expected results:

Physiological patterns differences due to:

- Child personality,
- Experimental phase
- Experimenter
- Age...

## LAUGHTER/ HUMOR

### POSITIVE EFFECT

Identifying Factors?

## SOCIAL LEARNING

PRESCHOOL-AGE children

Different cognitive mecanisms involved in the learning process

Inter-individual differences

Banas JA, Dunbar N, Rodriguez D, Liu SJ A review of humor in educational settings: Four decades of research. Commun Educ. 2011; 60: 115-144. Esseily R, Rat-Fischer L, Somogyi E, O'Regan K, Fagard J. Humour production may enhance observational learning of a new tool use action in 18-month-old infants. Cogn Emot. 2015;

Mireault GC, Reddy V. The Development of Humor. In: Humor in Infants: Developmental and Psychological Perspectives. Springer Briefs in Psychology. Springer, Cham; *2016.* 

Rat-Fischer, L. Developmental learning of tool use in human and animal babies: inherited, social and environmental influences, Annals of the Fyssen Foundation 2017; 30:98-105.