

Infant Vision

- * At birth the basic anatomical elements of the visual system are present but,
 - ❖ They are neither fully developed,
 - ❖ The lens is immature; images on the retina are blurred
 - * Nor well coordinated
 - * Movements of both eyes don't yet form a clear composite image
- ❖ Neural pathways relaying info from the retina to the brain are immature

Color perception

- Newborns seem to possess all, or nearly all, of the physiological prerequisites for seeing color
 - ❖Psychologists disagree about precisely which colors newborns can perceive (Bornstein, 1976)
- *By 2 mos of age, color vision appears to be roughly equal to adults' (Bornstein, 1988)

❖ Visual Acuity

- ❖ Neonates are extremely nearsighted
 - *Estimates range from 20/300 vision (Fantz, et al., 1962)
 - *20/660 (Courage & Adams, 1990)
 - ♦20/800 vision (Cornell & McDonnell, 1986)
 - Probably not too problematic because others navigate their world for them at first
 - Their vision seems to be particularly suited for seeing their mother's face when they are breastfeeding (Stern, 1977)
- ❖ By 7-8 mos (when infants are able to crawl) their visual acuity is close to adult levels (Haith, 1990)

❖ Visual Scanning

- Newborns actively scan their surroundings (Bronson, 1991)
- ❖ Haith, et al. (1970) determined that neonates scan even in a completely darkened room
 - ❖ This sort of scanning is not related to the visual environment
 - ❖ Must originate in the neural activity of the CNS
 - *May be an initial, primitive basis for looking behavior
- Haith and his colleagues also found that infants exhibit looking that is related to the external environment
 - When they scan a room, they stop at an object or some change in brightness
 - This early sensitivity to changes in illumination, which often signals edges and angles of objects, appears to be an important component of the developing ability to perceive visual forms (Haith, 1980)

Using Vision to Learn about the World

- * Depth Perception
 - ❖ Motion (used in the first months of life)
 - Visual expansion (as objects approach they fill a larger area of visual field)
 - Infants blink their eyes defensively when an object is moved toward their face as if it's going to hit (Nánez & Yonas, 1994)
 - * Motion parallax (driving with mountains on side)
 - Occlusion
 - ❖ Pictorial depth cues (not used until 6-7 mos)
 - * Relative size
 - ❖ Texture
 - ❖ Interposition (like occlusion, but stationary)

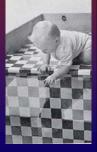
Visual Cliff (Gibson & Walk, 1960)

❖ Mothers beckon babies to crawl

❖ 7-mo-old crawlers refuse

across

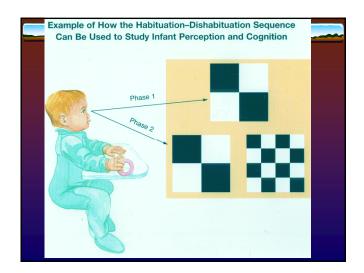
- ❖ 7-mo-old non-crawlers agree
- Self-generated motion seems to be the key
 - Requires continuous updating of orientation (Bertenthal, et al. 1994)

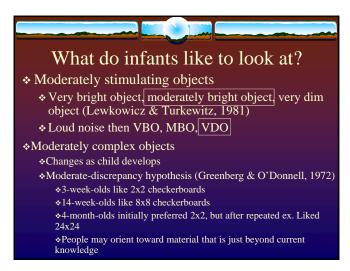


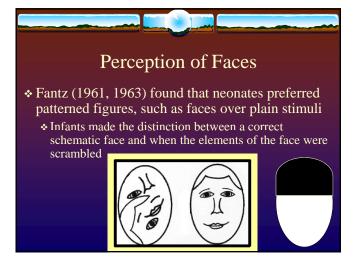
Measuring Infant Perception

- ❖ Habituation-Dishabituation Paradigms
- ❖ Preferential Looking Paradigms
 - Both methods capitalize on infants propensity to turn their heads toward interesting stimuli

Although the baby here s shown in an infant seat, n some experiments adults nold the babies, in their laps. Positions of reference and test stimulia are randomly alternated Preferential Looking Table of Contents Positions of reference and test stimulia are randomly alternated Observer views baby's eyes from behind stimulus card through peep hole (which is smaller than that illustrated)



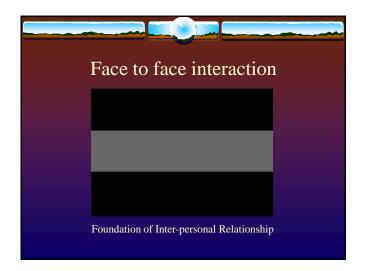




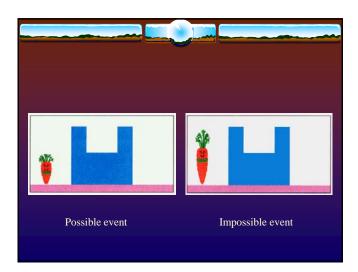


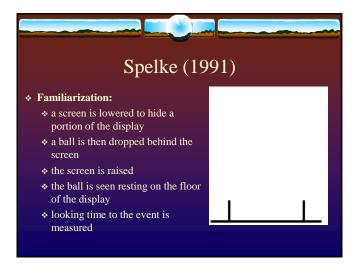


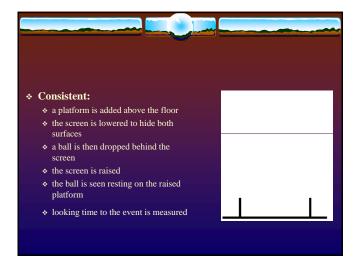


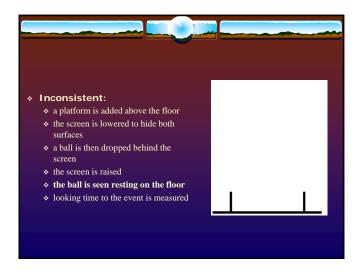


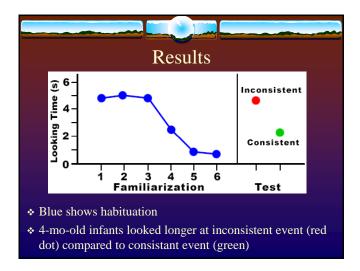


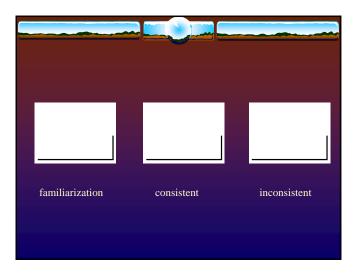


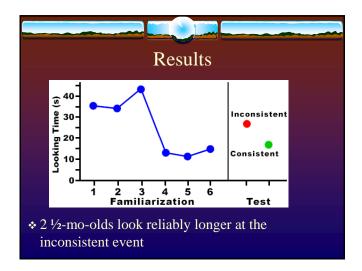


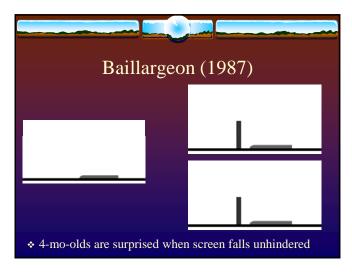


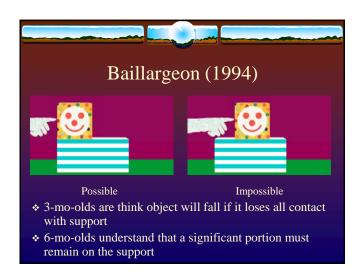






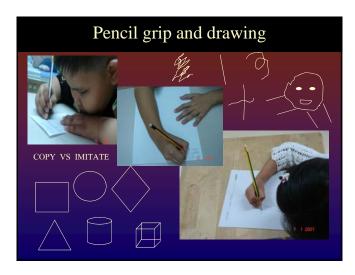


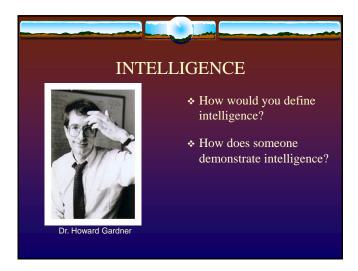


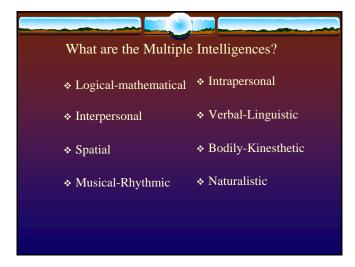










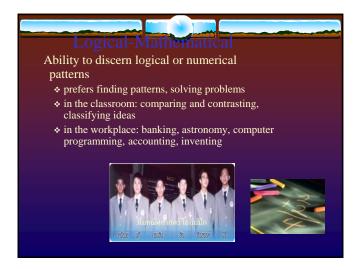


Theory of Multiple Intelligence

* Change in traditional thinking of
How smart are you?

to
How are you smart?

* Viewing reality through various
windows







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