

VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE AND STATE UNIVERSITY Informed Consent
for Participants in Research Projects Involving Human Subjects

Title: Infant Perception of Clear Speech

Principle Investigator:
Dr. Robin Panneton
Associate Professor

Joy Wu
Graduate Student

I. Purpose of this Research/Project

The purpose of this project is to investigate 7- to 11-month-old infants' discrimination of clear from non-clear speech. We will record your infants attention (looking time) to colorful, moving objects as he/she listens to recordings of words, produced by several mothers talking to their own infants. Some of the words are hyperarticulated (clear) whereas others are non-hyperarticulated (non-clear). After to listen to one type of word category for several minutes, we will switch to the other category to see if your infant's attention increases to the change in word type. Your participation in this study benefits the study of auditory perception, particularly our understanding of the development of infant attention to language.

II. Procedures

Your infant will be tested for approximately 10 minutes, provided that he/she is quiet and awake. The baby will be held by the parent in her/his lap. The baby will view a video screen on which a smiling, laughing infant briefly appears (to capture attention), and then colorful moving circles appear. These circles will be accompanied by a female voice track, saying several different words. The video

will remain on the screen until the infant begins to lose interest. This is repeated several times until your infant begins to lose interest in hearing the voices. Then, the voice track is switched to the other category to see if infants discriminate the change in speech clarity. The loudness of the voices being played to the infant is no more than that heard by infants in their typical home environment. Each infant will be videotaped during his/her session for subsequent coding of the facial expressions. If for any reason, your infant cries or falls asleep, testing will be discontinued.

III. Risks

There are no apparent risks to your infant or to yourself for participation in this study. Sound levels for all auditory stimuli will be verified prior to the testing of each subject.

IV. Benefits

There are no direct benefits to the participants in this study. Parents will receive a certificate of appreciation and the results of the study will contribute to a broader body of research on infant attention and perception.

V. Extent of Anonymity and Confidentiality

All of the information gathered in this study will be kept confidential and the results will not be released without parental consent. However, the results of this project may be used for scientific and/or educational purposes, presented at scientific meetings, and/or published in a scientific journal. You will be sent a summary of the work when this project is completed.

VI. Compensation

There is no compensation to be earned from participation in this project.

VII. Freedom to Withdraw

You have the right to terminate your infant’s involvement at any point in time and for any reason should you chose to do so.

VIII. Subject’s Responsibilities

I voluntarily agree to have my infant participate in this study.

IX. Subject’s Permission

I have been given an opportunity to ask further questions about this procedure and I understand that I have the right to end this session for any reason if I so choose. This project has been approved by the Human Subjects Committee of the Department of Psychology and the Institutional Review Board of Virginia Tech. If I have any questions regarding this research and its conduct, I should contact one of the persons named below. Given these procedures and conditions, I give my permission to Dr. Panneton and her co-workers to test my son/daughter.

Dr. Robin Panneton, Principle Investigator 231-5938
Dr. David Harrison, Chair, Human Subjects Committee 231-4422
David M. Moore, DVM, Assistant Vice Provost for 231-4991 Research Compliance

Signature of Parent: _____

Date: _____

Infant's Name: _____

I would like to be contacted by phone regarding future studies YES NO