



The Babylab-App: Overview



Overview

This experiment investigates whether your child recognizes German words when they are spoken in a regional dialect or with a foreign accent. To this end, we record your child while he/she is listening to words or non-words. This is our first attempt of an infant perception study outside the BabySpeechLab. Clearly, there will be more sources of distraction in your home environment than in the lab. This is why we ask you to try to choose a surrounding and a time where there is little room for distraction so that we can use the collected data for research purposes. There is no risk involved in participating in the study. The looking behaviour will be analysed as group data. This is why we cannot provide individual information about children's linguistic development but draw conclusions about the investigated age group as a whole. Your participation supports our research in the field of first language acquisition. At the end of the experiment, you can indicate whether you would like to participate in a raffle and get the chance to win a voucher.

Best regards,
Dr. Katharina Zahner
Prof. Dr. Bettina Braun

1. Study Tasks

To begin with, you will be looking at a picture together with your child. This is to familiarize your child with the experiment's set-up and procedure. A recording of this initial stage will also provide us with an impression of the speech style you use when talking about the picture with your child. Please be as authentic as possible and try to speak as you would normally do. The actual experiment consists of 8 trials. In each trial, your child is presented with a checkerboard on screen while listening to words or non-words (randomly selected from Standard German, a regional dialect of German, or foreign-accented German).

During the experiment, we will be videotaping your child's looking behaviour. Your child's head as well as (parts of) your head will be visible in the video. In the lab, you would usually be wearing headphones, listening to music so that you do not hear the stimuli your child is hearing. That is to prevent you from influencing your child. When participating in the experiment at home, please also try to be as passive as possible and do not interact with your child. Otherwise, we will not be able to use the data for our research.

2. Data Gathering and Privacy

The questionnaire that you are asked to fill in, as well as the videos that we collect during the experiment will initially be stored on your iPad, locally and anonymously. At the end of the experiment, all data will be encoded and uploaded to a server of the University of Konstanz. Your child's looking behaviour will be manually coded or analysed with the help of scientific tools. If you feel like your child was engaged and comfortable during the experiment, it would be nice if we could use the video (for illustration purposes of the method) in seminars or at scientific conferences. We would also highly appreciate your agreement on sharing the video with other researchers in collaborative projects. This is optional, so feel free to indicate your respective preferences on the consent form and we will happily respect any decision you make.

3. Privacy

The gathered data will be locally and anonymously stored on your iPad. During the upload, the data will first be stored in form of a password-protected data package; the package will then be transferred to a university server via an encrypted connection. The server is also password-protected and only the core team of the BabySpeechLab will have access to this server. All data will be decoded and analysed in the BabySpeechLab. For all analysis steps, your anonymised data will be treated confidentially. For analysis purposes, the videos may be shared with other researchers involved in the data analysis process. These researchers will also securely store the data and treat them confidentially.

If you have further questions, do not hesitate to contact us

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4. Data Use

The audio and video recordings of me and my child will be stored for archiving and analysis purposes. All staff members have an obligation of confidentiality. The data will exclusively be used to answer scientific questions.

5. Time Commitment

Please take your time to fill in the questionnaire and run the experiment. The questionnaire consists of 12 questions in total. The actual experiment lasts approximately 3 to 4 minutes. During the experiment, we will videotape you and your child; these video data naturally have high data volume.

This is why the upload to the secure university server may take 10-15 minutes - depending on the speed of your connection. Please do not switch off the iPad while the data is uploading and make sure to switch off your iPad's auto-lock. (via Settings > Display & Brightness > Auto-lock > select 'Never'). Otherwise, the experiment may be terminated early and the data will be lost.

6. Withdrawal

You may withdraw from the study at any time. Similarly, you may start anew or decide to continue.

Every child may only take part in the study once.