



SHIMOJO *Psychophysics* LABORATORY



Caltech Infant Development Laboratory

Development of Multimodal Integration in Human Infants Project

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Dear Parents,

Congratulations on the birth of your new baby! Now that you have had a chance to get to know your baby, perhaps you have been wondering how growth and development will proceed. We invite you to participate in a study that may help answer some of your questions.

After receiving permission from the State of California Health and Welfare Agency, we have asked the Pasadena Public Health Department to assist us in getting this letter to you. To protect your privacy, we have no access to your identity unless you choose to contact us. Should you decide to take part in this study, any personal information you share with us will remain confidential, available to a few members of the Infant Development Laboratory team and no one else.

What is the purpose of this study? As adults, we often take for granted our ability to integrate the sights and sounds around us into a single percept of the external world. This is an ability that your baby is only now beginning to develop, and will continue to do so during his or her first year of life. Every sight and sound, from looking at your face to hearing your voice, is a learning experience for your child and how this development proceeds is of great importance to our understanding of the workings of the human brain and nervous system. The goal of the Infant Development Laboratory at the California Institute of Technology is to gather new knowledge about how visual and auditory perception, as well as their interaction, develop early in life. We hope that this knowledge will eventually contribute to the healthy development of auditory and visual perception in children of all ages. Some of the studies currently underway ask questions like the following:

- When do infants first perceive integrated objects rather than separate sensations of color, shape, and motion?
- When are infants first able to integrate visual and auditory information?
- When do they recognize the motion patterns involved in walking and when do they combine this knowledge with their own sensations when walking?

What does participation in the study entail? Participation in the study involves you and your baby visiting our lab for a total of four sessions, one session every one or two months. Each session will last for approximately **half an hour to one hour**; at the end of each session you will be entitled to pick out a small gift for your baby to take home. Appointments are made around you and your baby's schedule, up to and including evening or weekend hours. As this is a voluntary study, you are free to disenroll at any time, for any reason.

What are the testing sessions like? The testing sessions in the laboratory are simple, non-stressful, and involve procedures about which you will be fully informed. In our experience, most infants enjoy participating in these experiments. You will remain with your baby throughout the session. Testing is never carried out without your full consent. For your convenience we have enclosed a copy of the consent form and neurological history questionnaire, but we encourage you to make an appointment to tour our lab and have all of your questions answered before signing. Free parking is available adjacent to the

laboratory. If you have older children, there is a convenient playroom for them to use while their baby brother or sister participates in the research project.

This letter is an invitation for you and your baby to take part in one of our studies. Because we are interested in testing infants as young as possible, we would be grateful for your prompt reply. Not participating will not affect you or your baby's future relations with the California Institute of Technology in any way. Of course, you will not be obliged to accept this offer.

We hope you will want to participate, because this experience will give you a chance to learn something about your baby and help us learn more about how visual and auditory perception develop. If you have any questions or would like to call now for an appointment, our number is **(626-395-2361)**. Feel free to visit our webpage at: **<http://neuro.caltech.edu>**. Some maps to our facility are on the back of this letter. Thank you for your time and cooperation.

Sincerely,

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