# Article information:

Longer looking to agent with false belief at 7 but not 6 months of age - Hirshkowitz - 2021 - Infant and Child Development - Wiley Online Library  
<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1002/icd.2263>

# Article summary:

1. Infants as young as 7 months old show evidence of theory of mind in an implicit false belief task using eye tracking.

2. The study found that infants looked longer at the agent with a false belief about the location of a ball at 7 months but not at 6 months.

3. One limitation of the study is the possibility of retroactive interference, which may have influenced infants' looking behavior in false belief trials.

# Article rating:

Appears moderately imbalanced: The article provides some useful information, but is missing several important points or pieces of evidence that would be required to present the discussed topics in a balanced and reliable way. You are encouraged to seek a more balanced perspective on the presented issues by exploring the provided research topics and looking at different information sources.

# Article analysis:

The article titled "Longer looking to agent with false belief at 7 but not 6 months of age" discusses the development of theory of mind in infants through an implicit false belief task. The study found evidence of theory of mind reasoning in 7-month-old infants but not in 6-month-old infants.

The article provides a comprehensive overview of the development of theory of mind and the different methods used to measure it, including explicit responses to false belief tasks and implicit tasks that rely on looking time as a dependent variable. However, the article has some potential biases and limitations that need to be considered.

One limitation is that the study only used one behavioural task to measure theory of mind reasoning in infants. While this task has been used in previous studies, it may not be sufficient to fully capture the complexity of theory of mind development. Additionally, the study only included a small sample size, which limits its generalizability.

Another potential bias is that the article does not explore counterarguments or alternative explanations for the results. For example, Heyes (2014) argues that infants may have looked longer to false belief trials because they were more similar to familiarization trials than true belief trials, rather than because they were tracking beliefs. This perspective is not fully explored or addressed in the article.

Furthermore, while the article provides evidence for early theory of mind development in infants, it does not consider potential risks or negative consequences associated with this development. For example, some research suggests that early theory of mind development may be associated with increased susceptibility to social influence and manipulation.

Overall, while the article provides valuable insights into early theory of mind development in infants, it is important to consider its limitations and potential biases when interpreting its findings. Further research using multiple measures and larger sample sizes is needed to fully understand this complex developmental process.

# Topics for further research:

* Critiques of implicit false belief tasks in measuring theory of mind development
* Alternative explanations for longer looking times in false belief trials
* Risks associated with early theory of mind development in infants
* Long-term consequences of theory of mind development
* Comparison of explicit and implicit measures of theory of mind
* Cross-cultural differences in theory of mind development

# Report location:

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