

METHODS PRACTICUM

You need to create 5 powerpoint or keynote slides outlining an experiment to answer the question highlighted on page 3. (There are 12 questions – you should choose just one to answer.)

Your slides should:

- A. explain the question you are addressing and why it might be important
- B. explain the experimental groups/conditions you will use to address the question.
- C. describe your stimuli and setup in sufficient detail for us to understand the protocol.
- D. discuss possible results of the experiment and how these results might answer your question.
- E. discuss any weaknesses you see in your design.

Unless it is particularly relevant to your question, you do not need to discuss how you will recruit subjects, ancillary details of the protocol (testing location, color of stimuli, etc.) or statistical analyses.

Please e-mail me your designs the day after session 3. I will weave your designs into the two lectures on methods so please be prepared to talk about them. **Please put “Methods 9.85 Question (1-8)” as the subject header when you send me the email and list all the members of your group in the contents. Do not forget the attachment.**

Finally, of course you could go look up the experiments that have actually answered this question. **For this assignment, please do not use outside resources.** The idea is for you to understand some of the methodological challenges in developmental research by trying to address them yourself.

YOU MIGHT FIND THE FOLLOWING HELPFUL WHEN CONSIDERING WHAT CHILDREN IN YOUR AGE RANGE CAN AND CANNOT DO ...

Timeline of Childhood Milestones

(American Academy of Pediatrics)

2 Months	Smiles at the sound of your voice
3 Months	Raises head and chest when lying on stomach Grasps objects Smiles at other people
4 Months	Babbles, laughs, and tries to imitate sounds
6 Months	Rolls from back to stomach and stomach to back Moves objects from hand to hand
7 Months	Responds to own name Finds partially hidden objects
9 Months	Sits without support Crawls
12 Months (toddler)	Walks with or without support Says at least one word Enjoys imitating people
18 Months (toddler)	Walks independently Drinks from a cup Says at least 15 words
2 Years (toddler)	Runs Speaks in two-word sentences Follows simple instructions Begins make-believe play
3 Years (preschooler)	Climbs well Speaks in multiword sentences Sorts objects by shape and color
4 Years (preschooler)	Gets along with people outside the family Draws circles and squares Rides a tricycle
5 Years (preschooler)	Tells name and address Jumps, hops, and skips Gets dressed Counts 10 or more objects

METHODS QUESTIONS

1. Do newborns remember sounds they heard in the womb?
2. Do 2-month-olds recognize their mother's faces?
3. Do 6-month-olds prefer baby talk to adult speech?
4. Are 4-month-olds afraid of heights?
5. Do 8-month-olds know the difference between cats and dogs?
6. Do 18-month-olds know that the things they like and want might be different from the things other people like and want?
7. Are 4-year-olds better at delayed gratification (putting off an immediate reward for a better reward in the future) than 3-year-olds?
8. Do 5-year-olds think you are 'good' or 'bad' based on what you meant to do or based on what actually happened?

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