Your child can help us discover more about...

...how babies learn
...how children's language skills differ
...what brain changes occur during childhood
...how attention and emotion develop
...when toddlers learn words for things
...how babies learn

Understanding the transformation from infancy to adulthood is central to the question of what it means to be human. At the Oxford Centre for Developmental Science we study human development from infancy to adolescence. Our goal is to unravel the problem of nature versus nurture – how do genes and experience interact to construct the human individual?

We use a variety of fun games to observe children’s reactions to different types of experience. In our purpose-built playrooms at the Centre we use state-of-the-art equipment to study how children understand and interact with the environment.

Early learning
Before a baby’s first birthday it is often difficult to know whether they understand words like horse and cow. By tracking babies’ eye movements while they explore pictures and listen to words, we are able to see subtle signs of word understanding at a very early stage.

Brain processes
How do toddlers’ brains create meaning? What makes older children’s brains better able to pay attention? In the Centre we investigate such questions by analysing naturally occurring brain activity recorded from children while they are engaged in games. This enables us to identify how the developing brain processes different kinds of stimuli and how these patterns change as children grow up.

Language, literacy and attention
Basic skills like listening and talking are critical to normal language development. We study how these skills develop over time and how they relate to more advanced skills like reading and writing. Our research also studies children who don’t follow the typical pattern of development, including children who are late to start talking, as well as children with reading or attention difficulties.

Taking part
A large number of parents in the Oxfordshire region offer to take part in our studies with their children. Our work depends entirely on their continued support. We are always interested in finding new parents who might like to get involved.

You can register your interest in taking part in BabyLab research using our postal form, or alternatively, signup online: http://babylabpsy.ox.ac.uk/parents/signup

Find us on facebook, and ‘like’ our page for regular baby news and updates: https://www.facebook.com/oxfordbabylab

If you, or your children have any of the following medical conditions, please give details in the space below.
Premature birth (4 weeks or more), vision or hearing problems, dyslexia, dyspraxia, stuttering, language delay, other developmental conditions (e.g. autism, learning difficulty).

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