

Infants' perception of transparency.

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Abstrak

Four- and 7-month-old infants' perception of transparency was investigated with computer-generated achromatic or color displays depicting a semitransparent box occluding the center of a rod. Following habituation, infants viewed test displays consisting of either a two-color rod (corresponding to the habituation display's proximal characteristics) or a solid rod (corresponding to the distal characteristics of the event depicted by the habituation display). Looking-time results from 4-month-olds suggested perception of transparency in color displays but not in an achromatic display. An additional condition indicated that transparency perception may rely on the visibility of background texture through the transparent surface. Seven-month-olds, in contrast, provided some evidence of transparency perception in the achromatic display. Implications for the development of infants' responses to object properties and perceptual segregation are discussed.