

Interactive Mobile

Explore Infant Vision

Grownups! You can use the exhibits and toys in the Infant Area to learn more about how your baby thinks and learns.

The Interactive Mobile is an exhibit that allows grownups to explore what babies can see. You can use the activity cards and mobile pillows to re-create several classic experiments to learn about how infants see the world, and how an infant's vision changes as she gets older.

Cognitive scientists who study infant development use a technique, called "paired comparisons", to test babies' vision. Using this method, scientists are able to determine what babies prefer to look at. Then, they try to determine why babies of specific ages prefer to look at certain objects. Young babies are not yet able to see the full variety of colors, shapes or details that adults can see, so an infant's preferences (e.g. for one of these pillows over another) will change with age, as their visual acuity improves.

Infant Vision Experiment

Which pillow is most interesting to Discovery Center Babies?

Method: We showed three different pillows (one at a time) to babies in the Discovery Center, and recorded how much time they spent looking at each pillow.

Each of these "baby-face" icons represents one baby. The pictures below indicate which pillow each baby in our sample looked at the longest.

Results

