INTRODUCTION

- There is limited information validating the use of online platforms, such as Lookit, for virtual infant behavioral observation.1,2,3
- Infant-directed speech (IDS) is characterized by higher frequency, more variable pitch contours, and simplified linguistic structures compared to adult-directed speech (ADS).2,3
- Infants’ preference for IDS over ADS is well-established.1
- Multimodal inputs of IDS better promote language learning compared to unimodal inputs.4

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- Can infants’ well-established preference for IDS be reliably observed through the online platform Lookit?
- Will infants demonstrate looking preference for multimodal presentations of IDS over unimodal inputs?

METHODS

Participating in the study, participants view eight 10-second video clips of mothers speaking in both IDS and ADS within a stimulus-type condition. The video clips are presented in four different formats:

- Audiovisual (AV)
- Visual-only (VO)
- Audio-only (AO)
- Non-social (NS)

Procedure

- Caregivers and typically developing infants between 3-5 months will access our study through Lookit, and their session will be recorded from their homes.
- Infants will be held by caregivers facing the computer screen and presented stimulus types of speech (audio-visual, audio or video only, and non-social) between-subjects and differing speech registers (IDS, ADS) within-subjects.

Measures:

- Total looking time will be blind coded by two raters based on the first look at the screen until the first continuous look-away exceeding one second.

RESULTS

- Infants' perception of faces and speech: a web-based study.

DISCUSSION

- Findings can assess the feasibility of Lookit as a method for remote infant collection data outside the laboratory environment.3
- Results can illuminate how different types of stimulus presentations may be more effective at recruiting and directing infants’ attention to the stimuli, thereby providing more information about the relative contributions of the visual and audio properties to infants’ preferences for IDS.4

REFERENCES & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

1. Fernald (1985) Infant Behavior and Development
2. Eschman et al. (2022) Frontiers in Psychology

Special thanks to all the families who participated via Lookit, Dr. Shepard, Dr. Spence and the research assistants at the Infant Learning Project who made this study possible.

Email contact: haley.davis@utdallas.edu