

Cognitive Development



Cognitive development

- How do children think?
 - Learn?
 - Remember?
- How do children understand the world?
 - Understanding objects
 - Understanding people

 - Language learning
 - Theory of mind

Language learning



This is a wug.

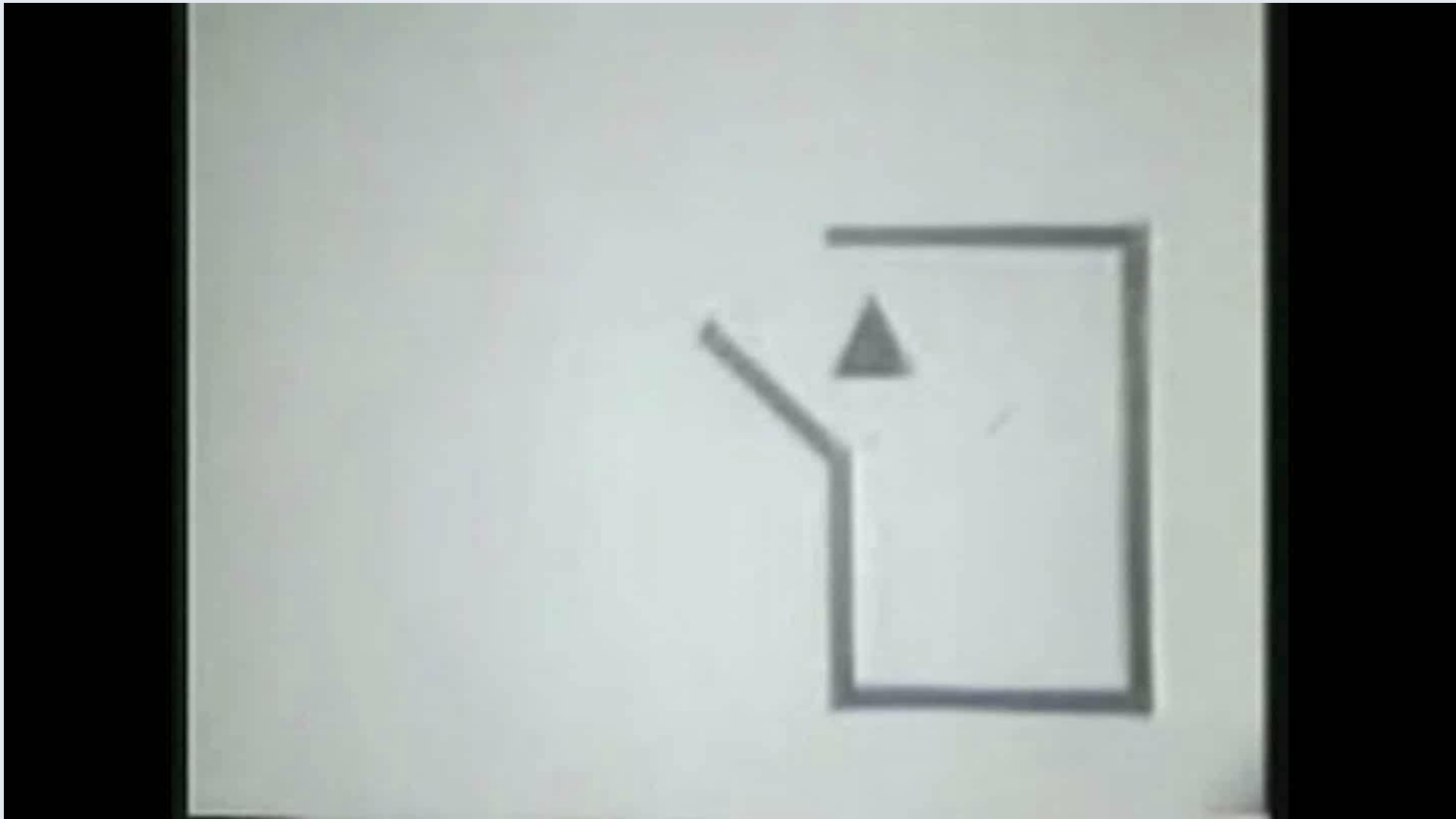


Now there is another one.
There are two of them.
There are two _____.

'gavagai' problem



Goal- and intention-reading



Goal- and intention-reading

- We can't help but see goals
- By 6 months, understand that people have goals
- By 18 months, appreciate failed goals

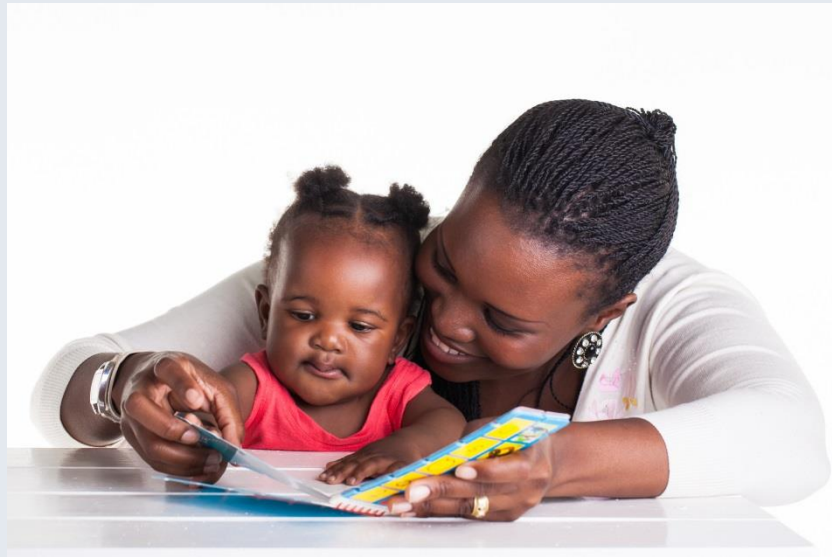
Goal- and intention-reading

- Imitate *intended* (but failed) goal



Joint attention

- The ability to share a common focus with another person
 - I know that you see what I see, that we're looking at it *together*



Joint attention

- How does this apply to language?



“Oooh, look, a *gazzer!*”

Understood by 16- to 19-
month-olds

How does this relate to language?



Let's find the “gazzer”!

24-mth-olds understood that “gazzer” refers to object searched for, not rejected objects

KCDU research

- The developing understanding of others
 - Attention to faces
 - Imitation
 - Language learning
 - Theory of mind



Early attention to faces



Understanding others

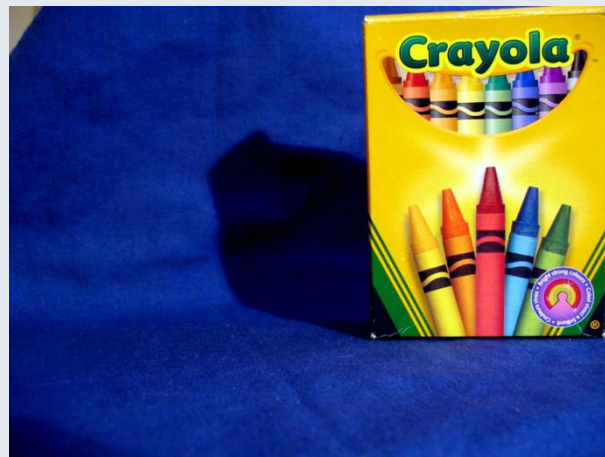
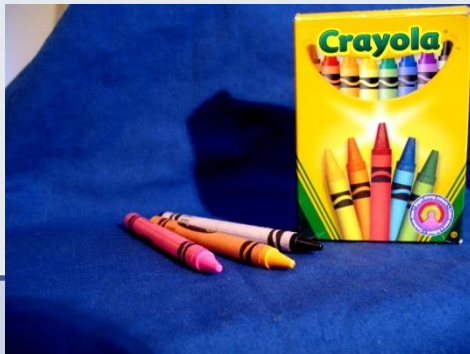


Understanding desires

- By 18 months, appreciate others have different desires
 - At 14 months, gave what *they* preferred
 - At 18 months, gave what *other* preferred
- At some level, children understand that others have different *attitudes*

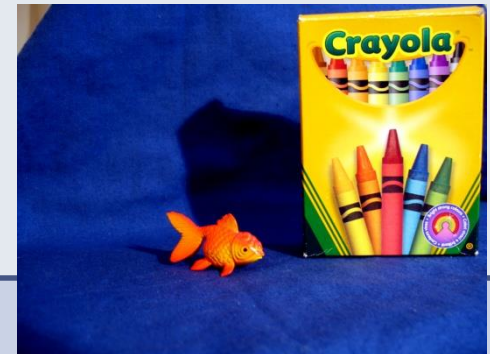
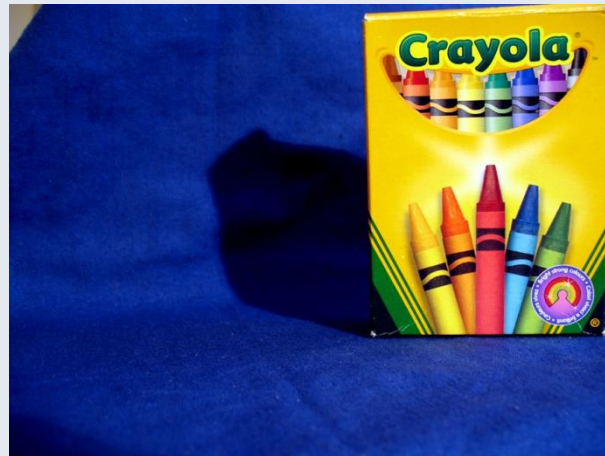
Smarties / Unexpected contents

- Sally or child has a *false belief* about what's in the box



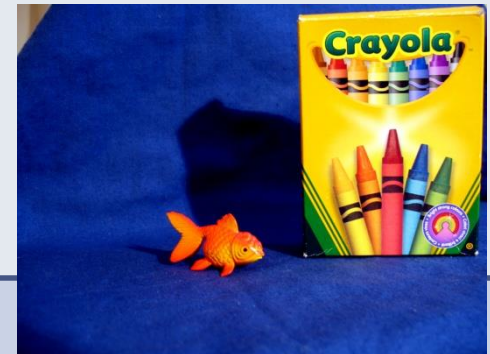
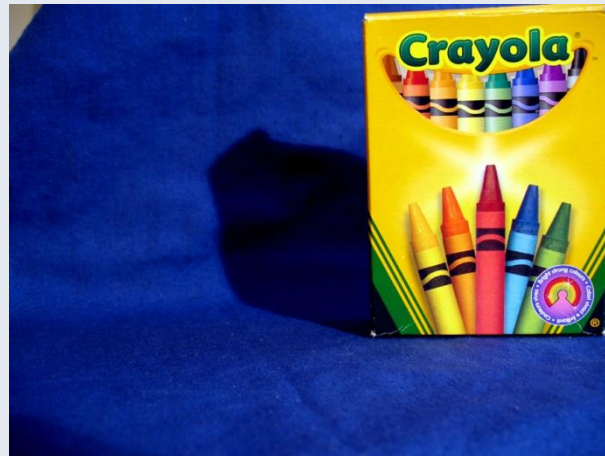
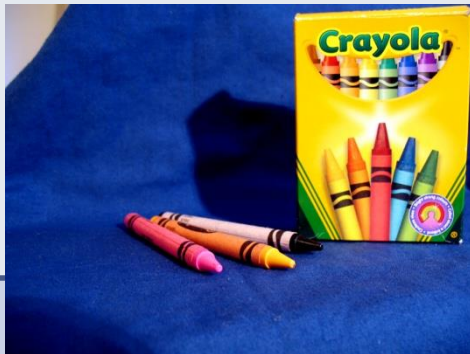
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Smarties / Unexpected contents

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Theory of Mind

- **Understanding jokes vs. lies**
 - “I did a really good job cleaning up my room”
 - “I did a really good job finishing up my peas”
 - Tom knows that mum knows.....

Theory of mind

- Continues to develop throughout childhood
and into adulthood!

KCDU

- Early attention to faces
- Imitation
- Language learning
- Prosocial behaviour
- Bilingualism
- Autism Spectrum
- Gender stereotypes

Thank you!

- Feel free to visit us:

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