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# The link between language and cognition in infancy

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## Abstract

The link between language and thought lies at the core of what it means to be human. This link is evident in the first months of life. As early as three months of age, a parent labeling an object that the infant is looking at influences how that infant thinks about those objects (Ferry et al., 2010). Prior research used face-to-face methodologies. Considering the constraints posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, we sought to validate an online categorization task. The results show that language labels facilitated category formation for 9- to 12-month-old infants. In contrast, a control condition that presented the same labeling phrases in reverse did not facilitate categorization. These findings suggest that infants can perform categorization using an online protocol such as Zoom and this paradigm provides a promising new avenue for studying the intersection between language and cognition.