



THANK YOU

We truly appreciate your participation in our study about **children’s and parent’s emotions** several years ago. The data from the study is helping advance research on children’s emotional and moral development. Our research team has presented results from the study at scientific and student research conferences.

This project is also providing training opportunities for a new generation of researchers. Graduate and undergraduate student researchers have learned to score heart rate data, code parent-child interactions from videos, calculate statistical tests, and much more.

We are grateful to you and your child for helping with this research!

NEXT STEP Study 2: Neurobiology of Children’s Emotion Understanding

This research has been awarded grants from the *American Psychological Foundation* and the *Brain and Behavior Research Foundation* that will fund a second study. These agencies are particularly interested in our findings about children’s bias toward positive emotions. Highlights of these findings are reported on page 2.

We are hoping you will be willing to participate in Study 2. We will contact you in the next year to ask if your family is willing to participate.

UPDATE CONTACT INFORMATION

Please contact us to update your e-mail address and phone number.

E-mail: GSUFamilyStudy@gmail.com ☺ Phone: 404-413-6312 ☺ Web: <http://www FeelingsLab.com/update/>

Presentations at Scientific Meetings

Young Children’s Positive Self-Perceptions and their Behaviors after Wrongdoings
Southeastern Psychological Association, Nashville, TN

Quadratic Associations between Mother’s Parenting and Children’s Reporative Behaviors
Society for Research in Child Development: Special Topics Meeting, San Diego, CA

Children’s Perceptions of Depression in their Mothers Predicts Girls’ but not Boys’ Self-Image
Society for Research in Child Development, Philadelphia, PA

Children’s Self-blame for Mother’s Sadness and Children’s Withdrawal & Aggression
Society for Research in Child Development, Philadelphia, PA

Poor Emotion Regulation is Associated with Greater Engagement with Angry Photos in Children
Anxiety and Depression Association of America, Miami, FL

Timeline of a Research Project

We are currently working on this task.



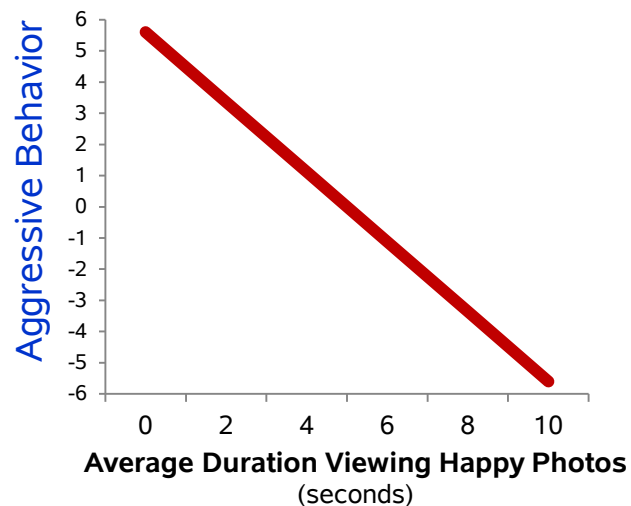
RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS: POSITIVITY BIAS

Interest in Others' Happiness Predicted Lower Aggression

Procedure. Children looked at photographs of people expressing emotions on a computer for as long as they wanted. Parents reported about children's aggressive behavior on a validated rating scale.

Finding. The children who looked longer at photos of people expressing happiness were less aggressive, and children who were less interested in the happy photos were more aggressive. Interest in photos of people expressing sadness and anger were not related to aggression.

Conclusion. Young children without a positive bias had more aggressive behavior.

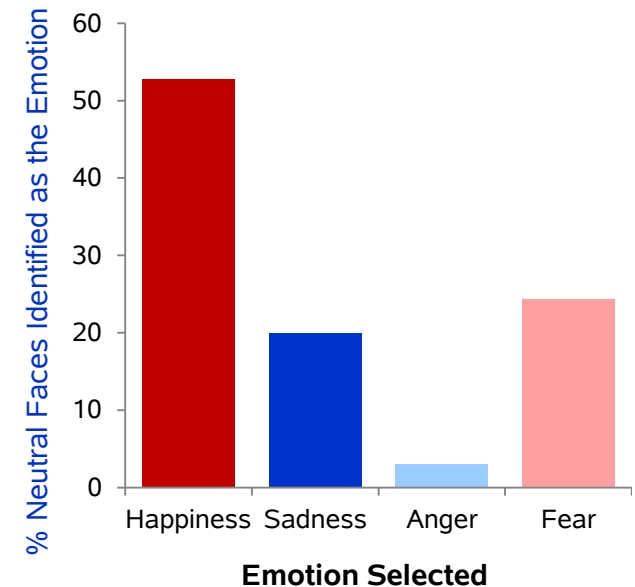


Children Saw Happiness in Neutral Faces

Procedure. Children viewed photographs of people expressing emotions. The children identified which emotion was expressed by the people in the photos. Some people in the photos had neutral expressions, and children were still asked to select which emotion was being displayed.

Finding. Children were most likely to select happiness as the emotion expressed by people in neutral photos.

Conclusion. Young children had a positive bias when interpreting emotions.



Children Overestimated Responsibility for Parents' Happiness

Procedure. Parents pretended to have an emotional phone conversation while they sat with their child at a table. Parents pretended to be happy, sad, and angry by repeating emotional statements that a researcher said to them over the phone. After the phone call, a researcher asked the child questions about his/her parent's emotions during the phone call.

Finding. Children largely recognized that they were not responsible for their parent's emotions. They were most likely to report responsibility for their parent's happiness (34% of the children).

Conclusion. Young children had a positive bias when reporting responsibility for parents' emotions.

