

The development of baby body representations

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Representing one's own body is of fundamental importance to interact with our environment, yet little is known about how body representations develop. Existing literature suggests that infants have expectations about the first-order structure of bodies from relatively early in life, but that these expectations may be fragile and dependent on how closely the stimuli resemble the bodies infants observe in daily life. In this study we aim to investigate the role multisensory bodily experience plays in the development of the perception and processing of typical over disproportional bodies. All previous studies used images of adult human bodies, but it is unknown whether infants' representations of *their own* bodies follow a similar developmental trajectory. In this study we present 5- to 14-month-old infants with images of upright and inverted infant bodies, typical and proportionally distorted. If multisensory experience with one's own body aids the development of expectations about typical body proportions, then we would expect to find a preference for the upright normal over the disproportional infant body in those infants who have accumulated more experience with using their whole body, e.g. crawling or standing.