

A not B task

Full Profile Review

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Name of the measure

A not B task

Author(s) / Publisher(s)

- German original (CH): Piaget, J. (1954). The construction of reality in the child. New York: Basic Books.

Author: J. Piaget.

Age Range

0-3 years

Age Range Information

In the first studies children were selected up to 8 to 10 months of age. However, it is possible to find studies with children as young as 5 to 7 months.

SEL Skills targeted

Self-management

Scales and Subscales

A not B task is an experiment that has been made in many countries since Piaget formulated the "A not B error" in 1954.

"In the canonical A-not-B task, an infant sits before two hiding locations that are highly similar and separated by a small distance (e.g., two identical cloth covers or two identical lids that are 20 cm apart). While the infant watches, a desired object is hidden in one location, the A location. After a delay, the infant is allowed to reach and search for the object. This hiding and search at the A location is repeated several times. Then, again while the infant watches, the object is hidden at B. After the delay, the infant is allowed to reach." (Smith, Thelen, Titzer & McLin, 1999, p.236).

Sources of information

Child

Formats for administration

Observation

Administration

An object which is interesting for the children

Two identical cloths

Less than 1 minute

Individual

Scoring

Other Relevant Information

Smith, L. B., Thelen, E., Titzer, R., & McLin, D. (1999). Knowing in the context of acting: The task dynamics of the A-Not-B Error. *Psychological Review*, 106(2), 235-260.
<https://doi.org/10.1037/0033-295X.106.2.235>

Studies about the A-not-B task in different countries:

Sweden: Johansson, M., Forssman, L., & Bohlin, G. (2014). Individual differences in 10-month-olds' performance on the A-not-B task. *Scandinavian Journal of Psychology*, 55(2), 130-135.
<https://doi.org/10.1111/sjop.12109>

Hungary: Topál, J., Gergely, G., Miklósi, A., Erdőhegyi, A., & Csibra, G. (2008). Infants' perseverative search errors are induced by pragmatic misinterpretation. *Science*, 321(5897), 1831-1834.
<https://doi.org/10.1126/science.1161437>

England: Hendry, A., Greenhalgh, I., Bailey, R., Fiske, A., Dvergsdal, H., & Holmboe, K. (2021). Development of directed global inhibition, competitive inhibition and behavioural inhibition during the transition between infancy and toddlerhood. *Developmental Science*, e13193.
<https://doi.org/10.1111/desc.13193>

Citation

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